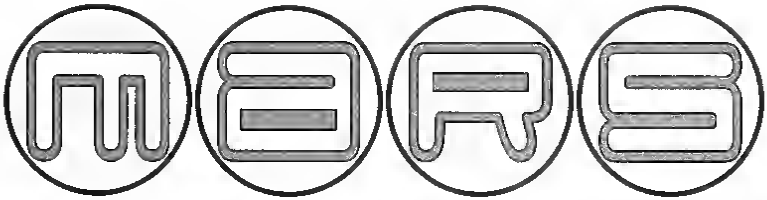
MARS

10

by Fuyumi Soryo

TOKYOPOP

MARS



Volume 10

By Fuyumi Soryo

TOKYOPOP®

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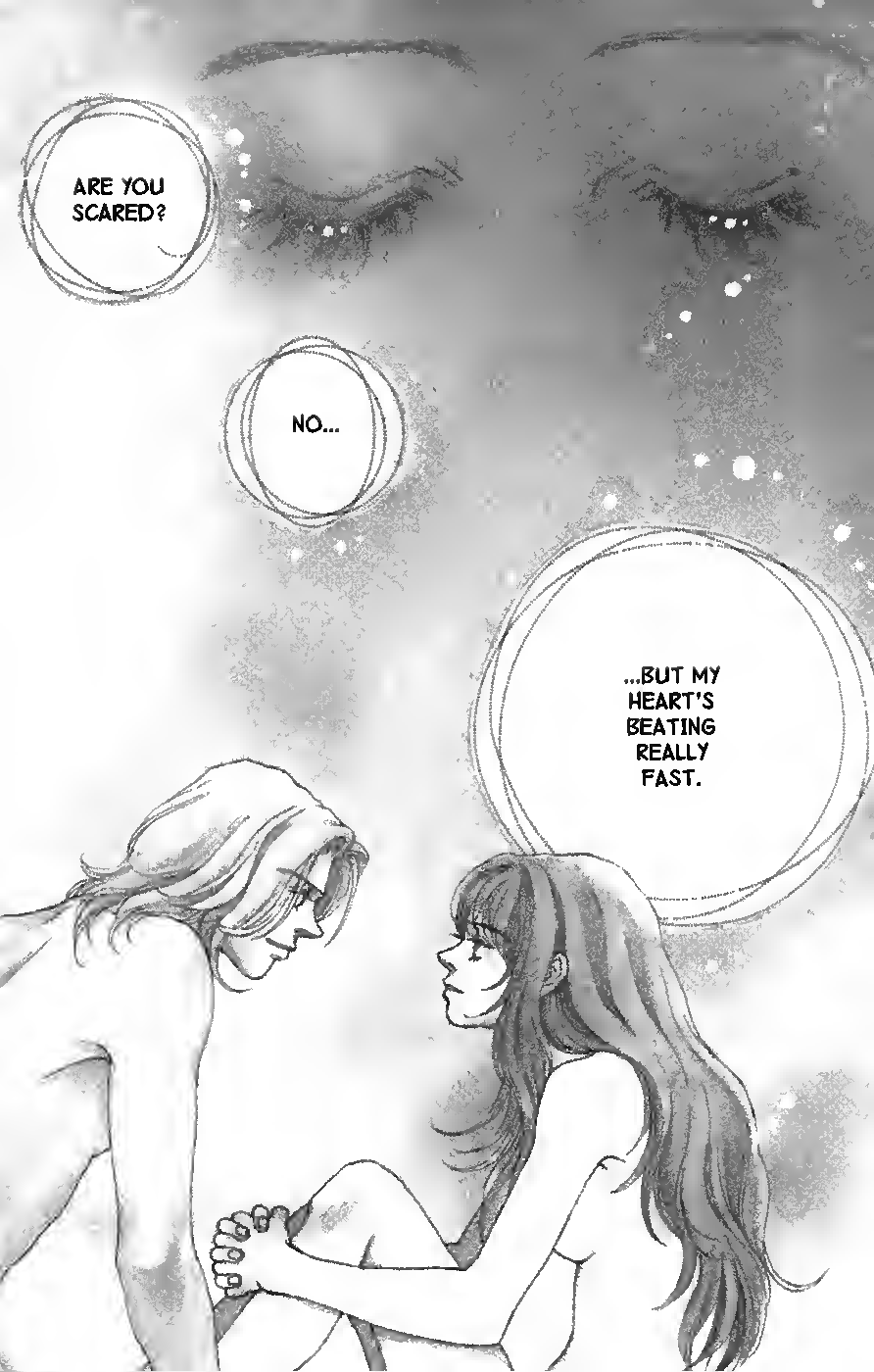

ARE YOU SCARED?
NO...
...BUT MY HEART'S BEATING REALLY FAST.

MARS
10
マース

MARS

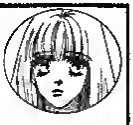
LEGEND OF MARS

REI KASHINO
A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO RACES MOTORCYCLES AND LIKES KIRA'S PAINTINGS. HIS TWIN BROTHER SEI IS DEAD

KIRA'S STEPFATHER
HE'S THE MAN WHO RAPED KIRA. HE'S NOW IN THE HOSPITAL WITH INJURIES

THE STORY UNTIL NOW

KIRA FALLS FOR REI WHEN SHE SPOTS HIM KISSING A STATUE OF MARS IN THE ART STUDIO. THEY BEGIN DATING, AND SOON THEY START GOING OUT. WHEN KIRA AND HER MOM MOVE BACK IN WITH THE MAN WHO RAPED KIRA IN JUNIOR HIGH, REI AND KIRA'S RELATIONSHIP IS TORN APART. HOWEVER, THEY SOON FIND THEY CAN'T STAY AWAY FROM EACH OTHER AND GET BACK TOGETHER. WHEN KIRA'S STEPFATHER STARTS GRILLING HER ABOUT HER RELATIONSHIP WITH REI, SHE HAS FLASHBACKS OF HER HORRIBLE PAST AND FEELS SUCH HATRED TOWARD HER STEPFATHER THAT SHE ENDS UP SERIOUSLY INJURING HIM. SHE RUNS AWAY FROM HOME AND MOVES IN WITH REI—AND DECIDES TO OFFER ALL OF HERSELF TO HIM. THEIR SOULS HAVE BECOME ONE..

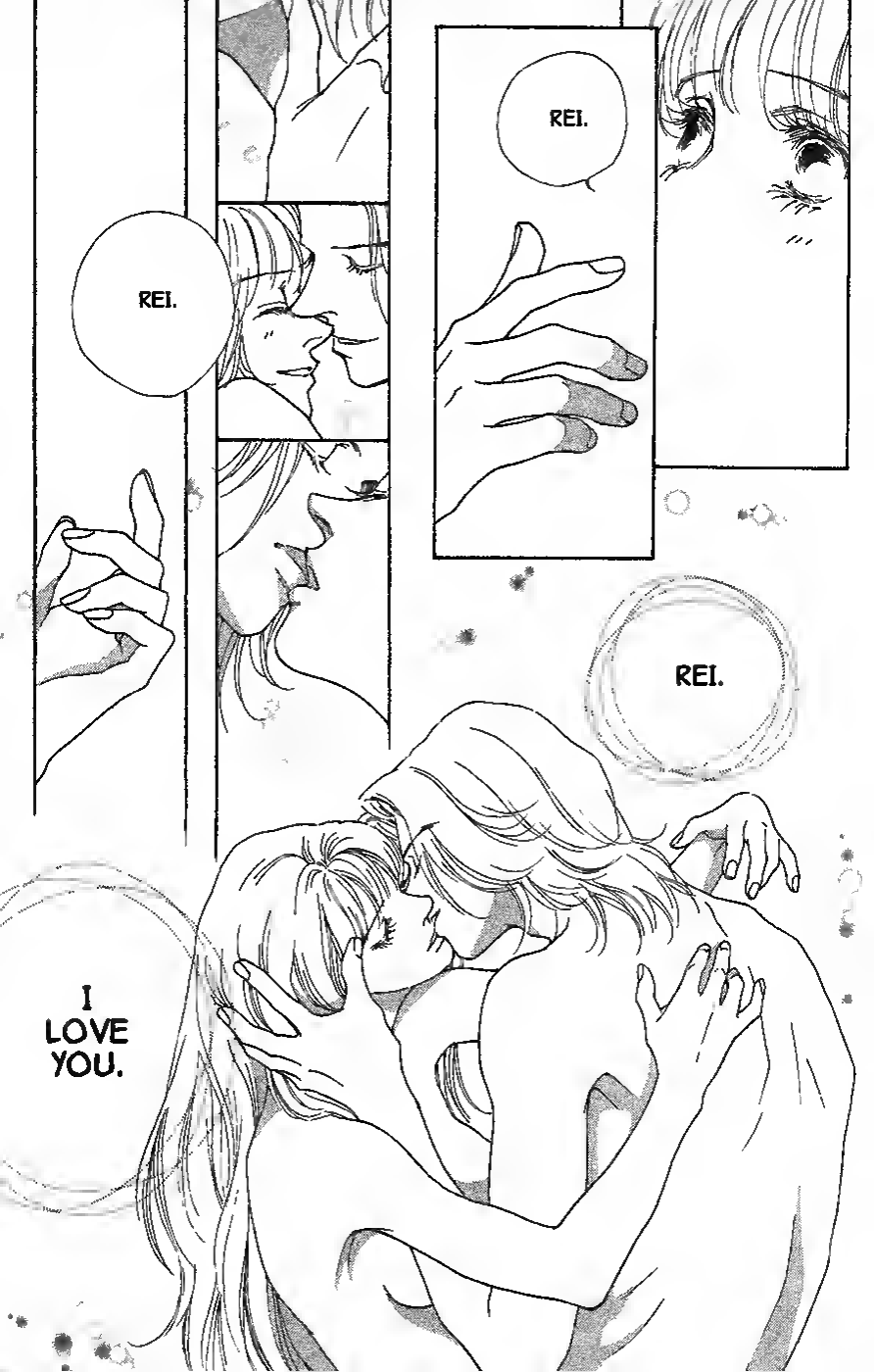


KIRA ASO
REI'S GIRLFRIEND. SHE JUST MOVED IN WITH HIM. HER STEPFATHER RAPED HER IN JUNIOR HIGH

TATSUYA
REI'S FRIEND. HE'S WORRIED ABOUT REI AND KIRA'S RELATIONSHIP.

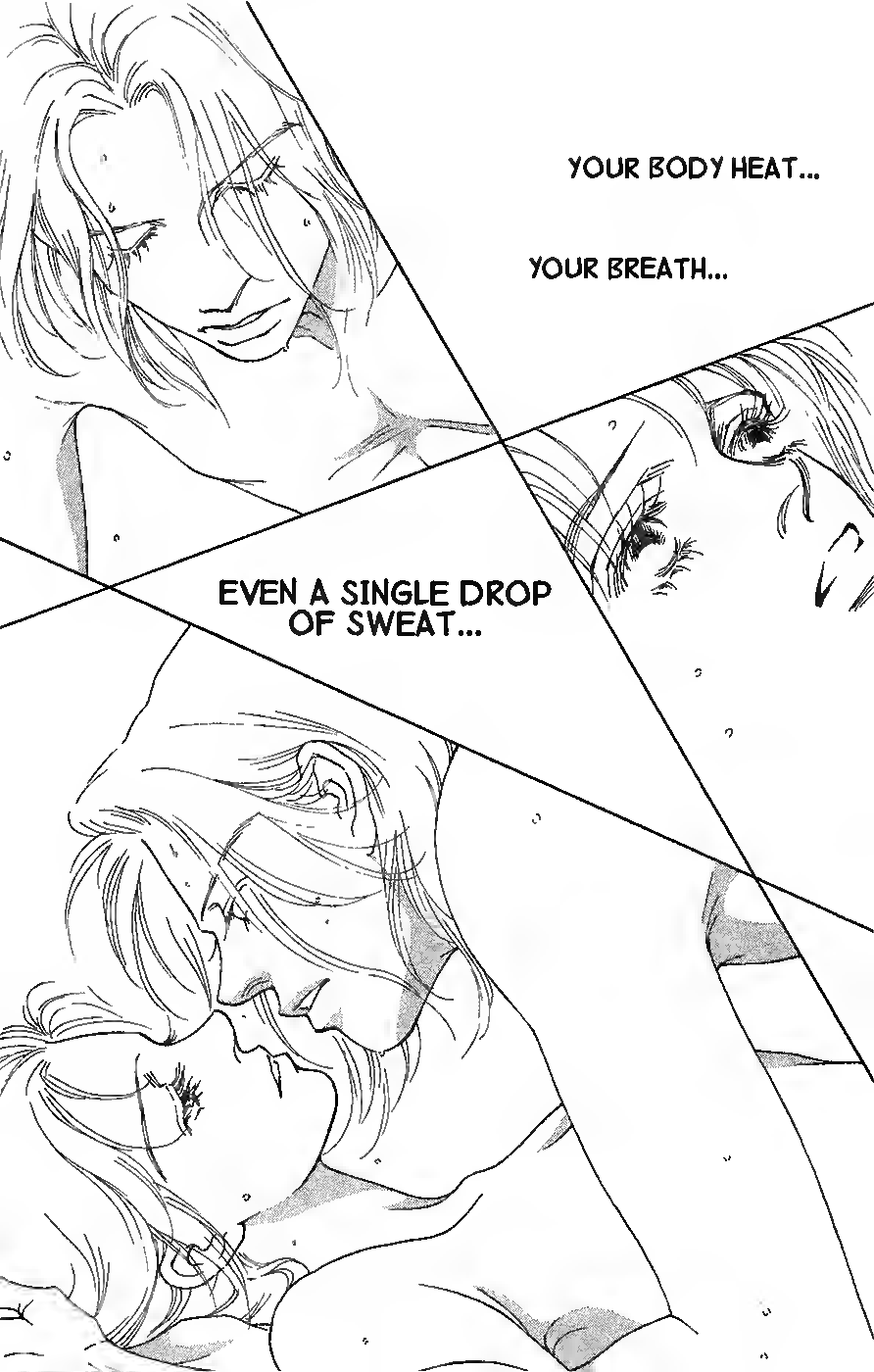
YOUR HEART...
...IT'S BEATING FAST, TOO.

SAY MY NAME.
YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME.
I LIKE HEARING YOU SAY IT.
JUST SAY MY NAME.

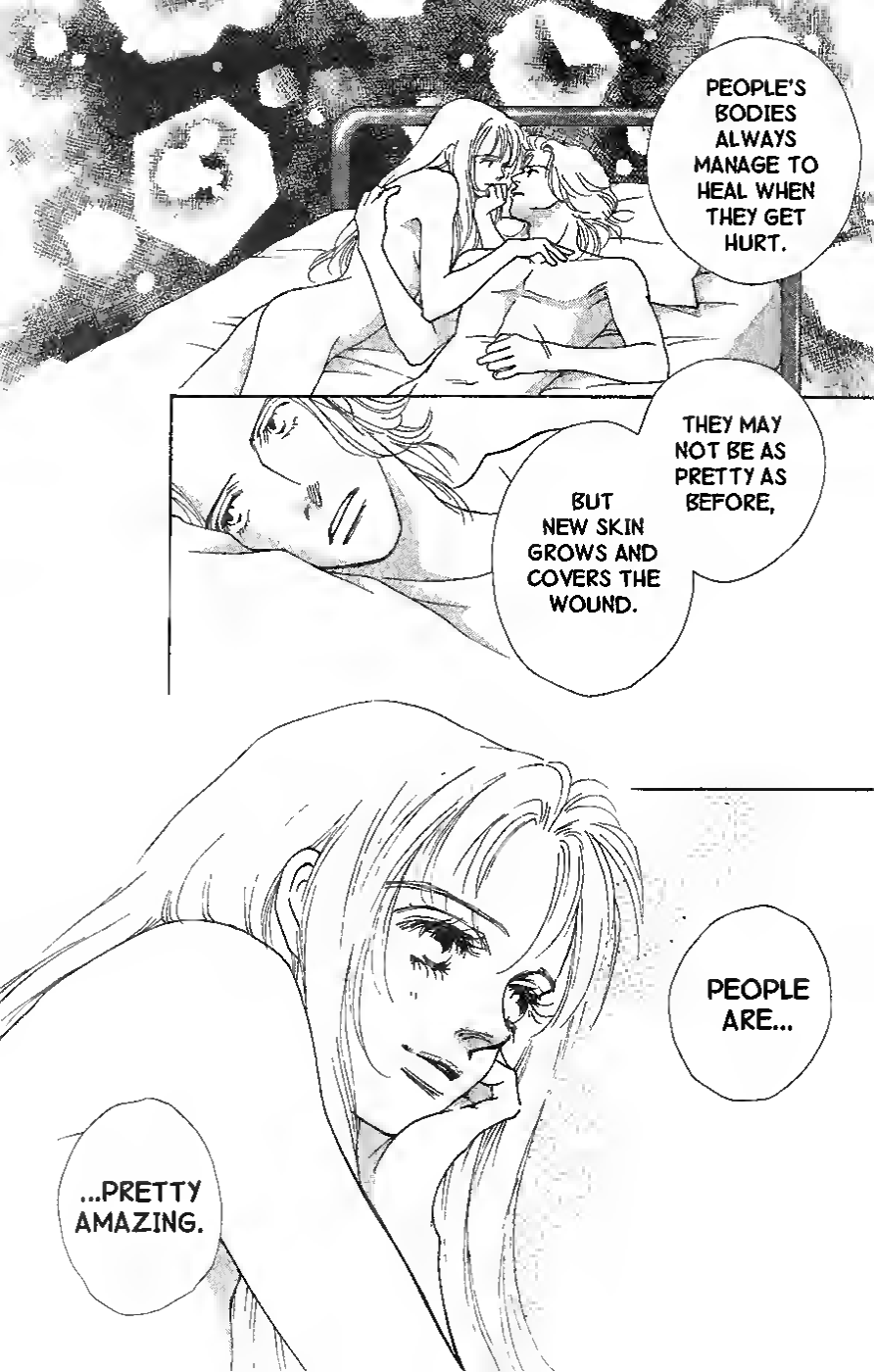

REI.
REI.
REI.
REI.
I LOVE YOU.

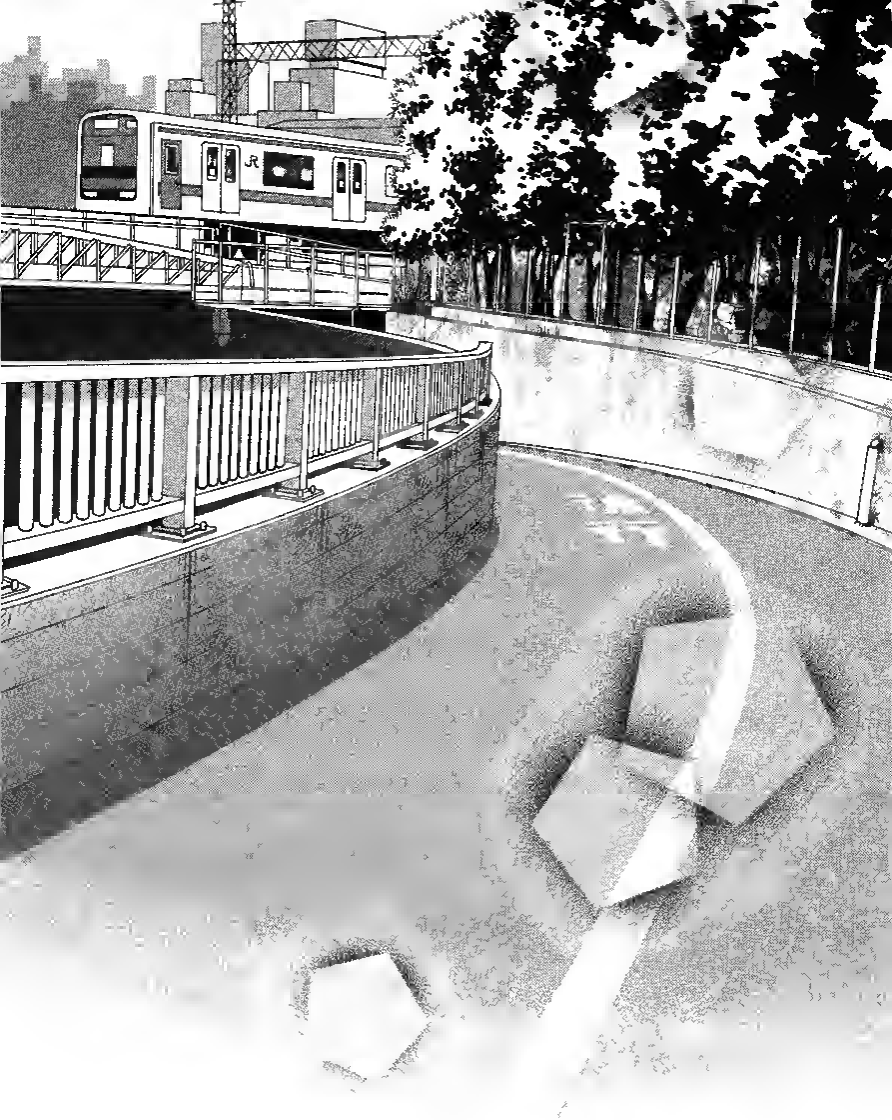
IT'S ALL RIGHT...
KEEP GOING.

I LOVE YOU...


YOUR BODY HEAT...
YOUR BREATH...
EVEN A SINGLE DROP OF SWEAT...

I LOVE ALL OF IT.
THIS SCAR... IS THIS THE ONE YOU GOT IN THAT BIKE ACCIDENT?


PEOPLE'S BODIES ALWAYS MANAGE TO HEAL WHEN THEY GET HURT.
THEY MAY NOT BE AS PRETTY AS BEFORE,
BUT NEW SKIN GROWS AND COVERS THE WOUND.
PEOPLE ARE...
...PRETTY AMAZING.



IT'S GREAT... TO BE ALIVE.

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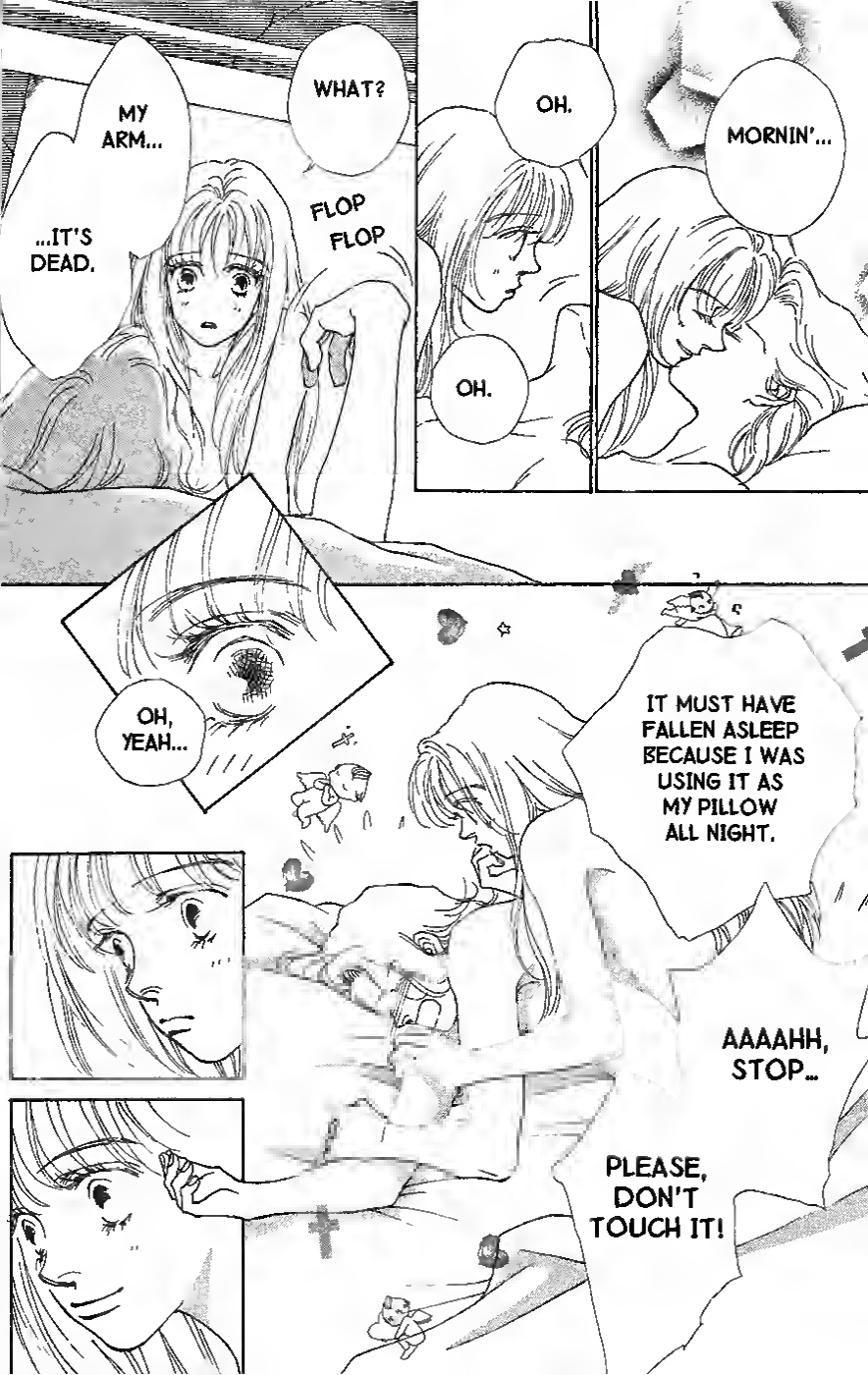
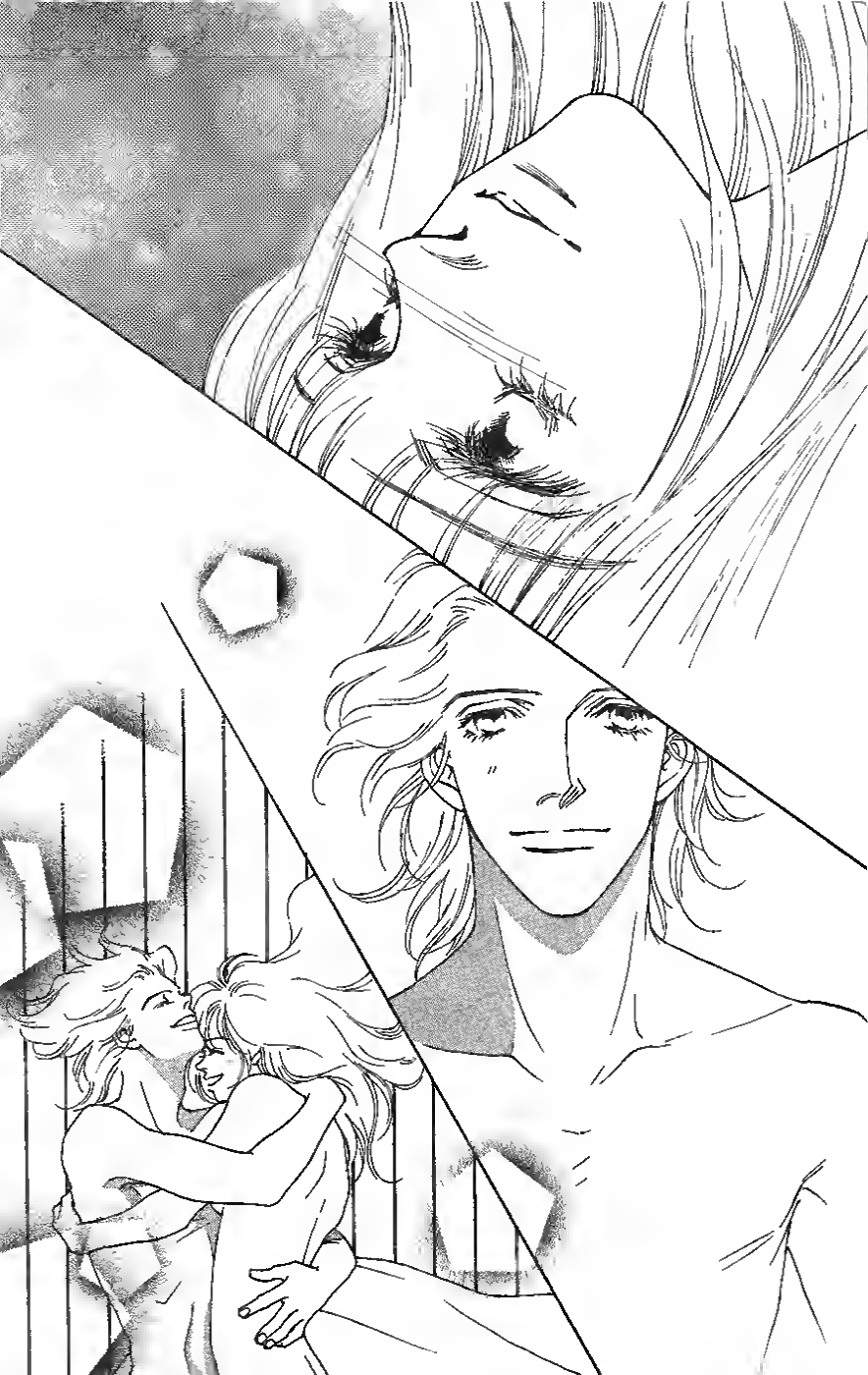
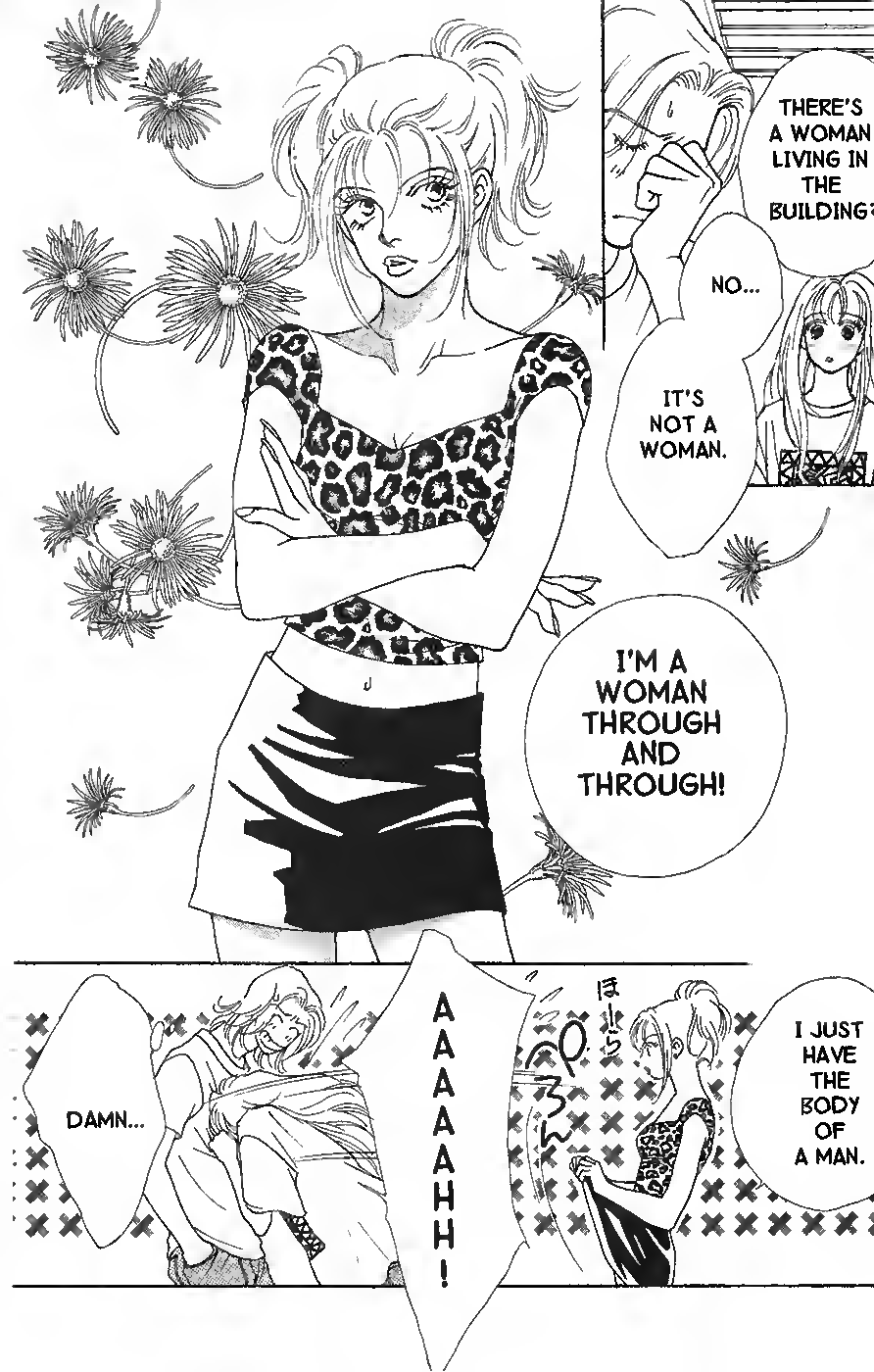

MY ARM...
...IT'S DEAD.
WHAT?
FLOP FLOP
OH.
OH.
MORNIN'...
OH, YEAH...
IT MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP BECAUSE I WAS USING IT AS MY PILLOW ALL NIGHT.
AAAAHH, STOP...
PLEASE, DON'T TOUCH IT!

AAAAAHHHH!
HEY!
AAAAAHH. STOOOOP!
I WANT TO TOUCH IT EVEN MORE NOW...
YOU KNOW WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN IF YOU KEEP THIS UP?
WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN?
I'LL DO YOU AGAIN.
TO BE

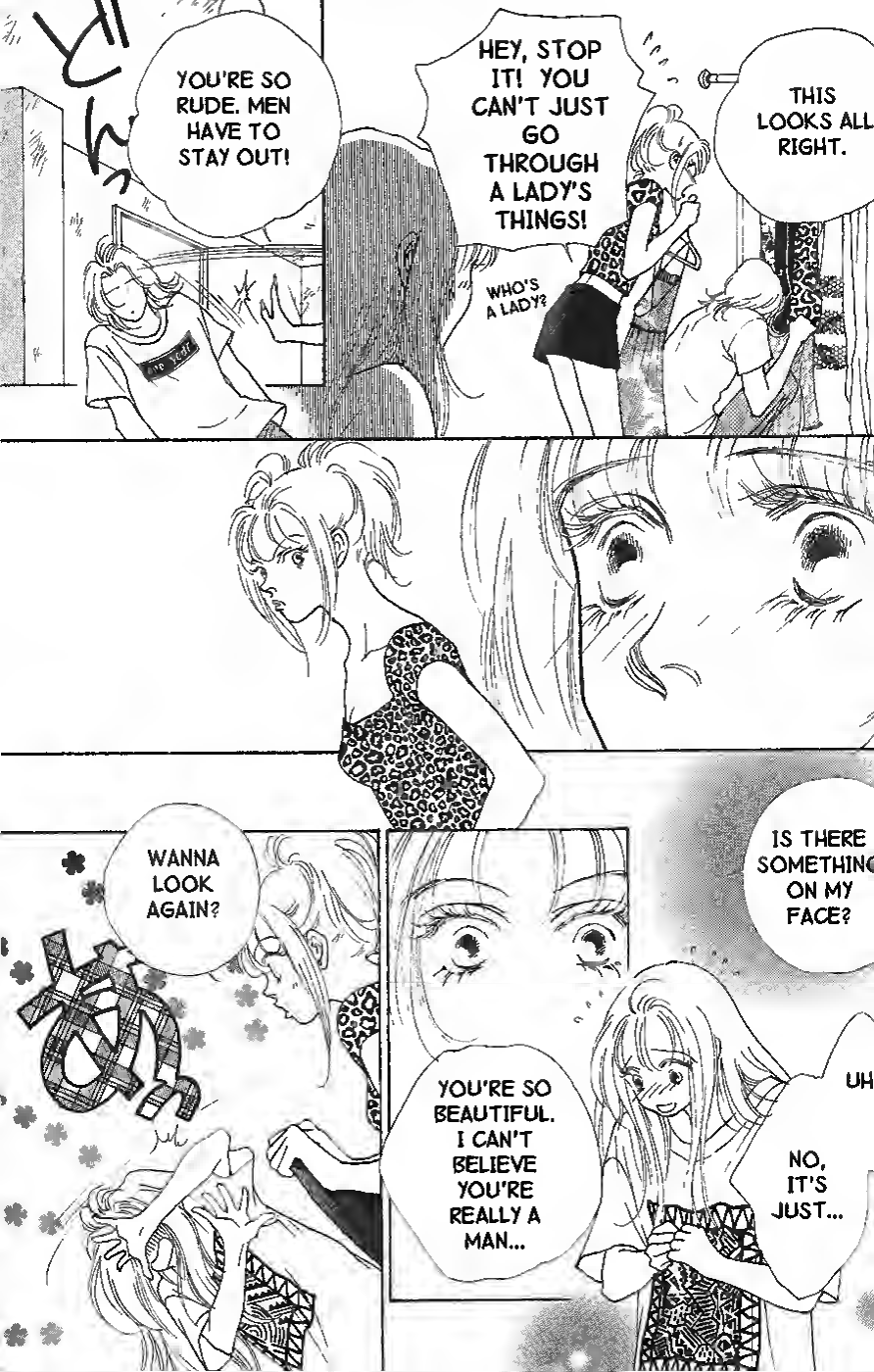
IT'S MORNING ALREADY.
DOESN'T MATTER.
ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, IT'S GONNA BE 24/7 FROM NOW ON.
ON THE FLOOR, IN THE HALL, WHEREVER!
WHAT?!
AT THE BEACH OR ON A MOUNTAIN-TOP...
IT'S NOT GONNA STOP.
AAAAAHH!
PERVERT!

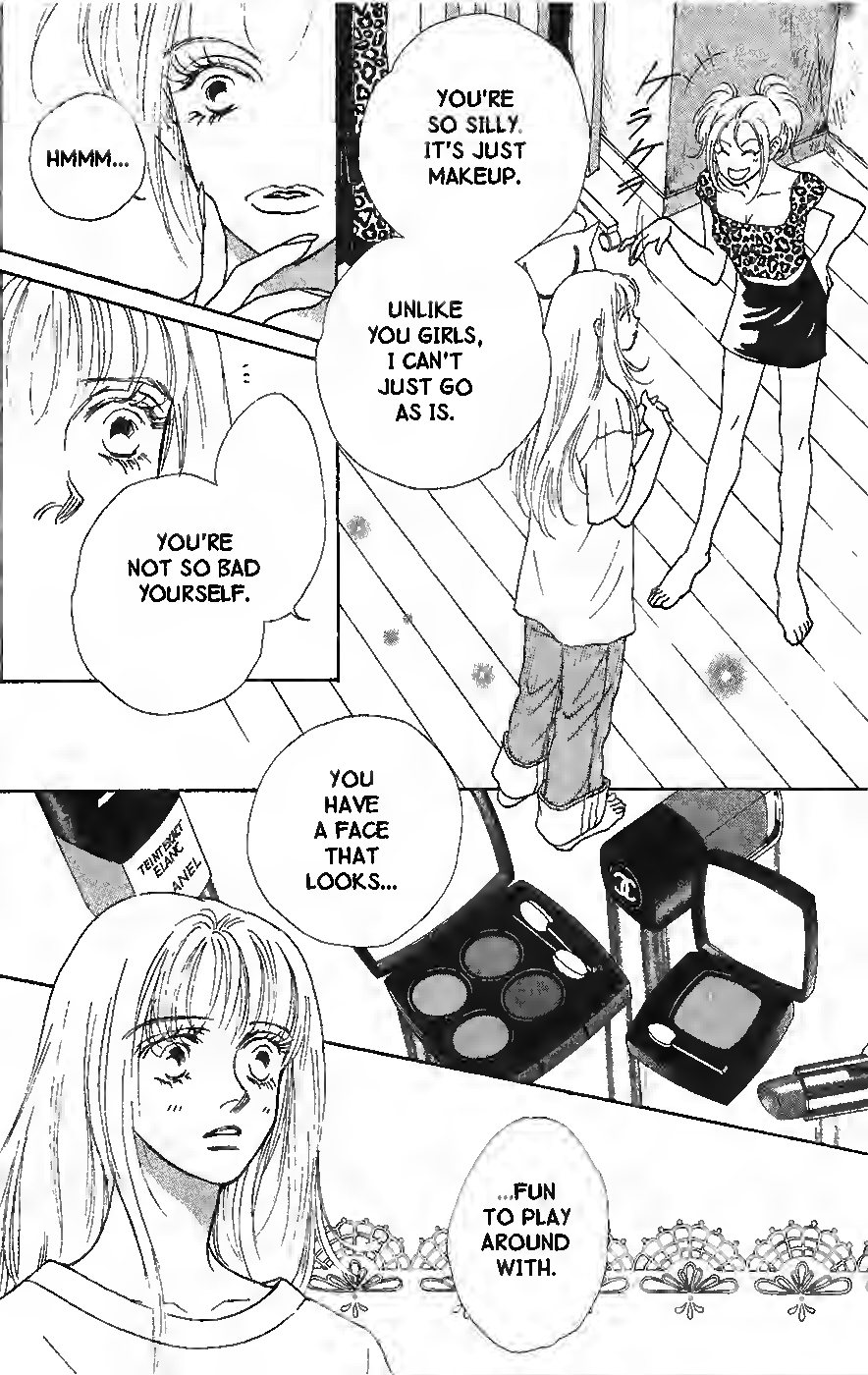


REALLY? IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME...
IT SHOULD. IT'S SO OBVIOUS YOU'RE BORROWING SOME GUY'S CLOTHES.
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY GIRLS' CLOTHES. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
HMMMM...
YOU CAN'T JUST GO ON WEARING MY CLOTHES.
PAJAMAS ARE ONE THING...
GIRLS' CLOTHES, HUH?
WELL, MY NEIGHBOR UPSTAIRS COULD LEND YOU SOME...
!

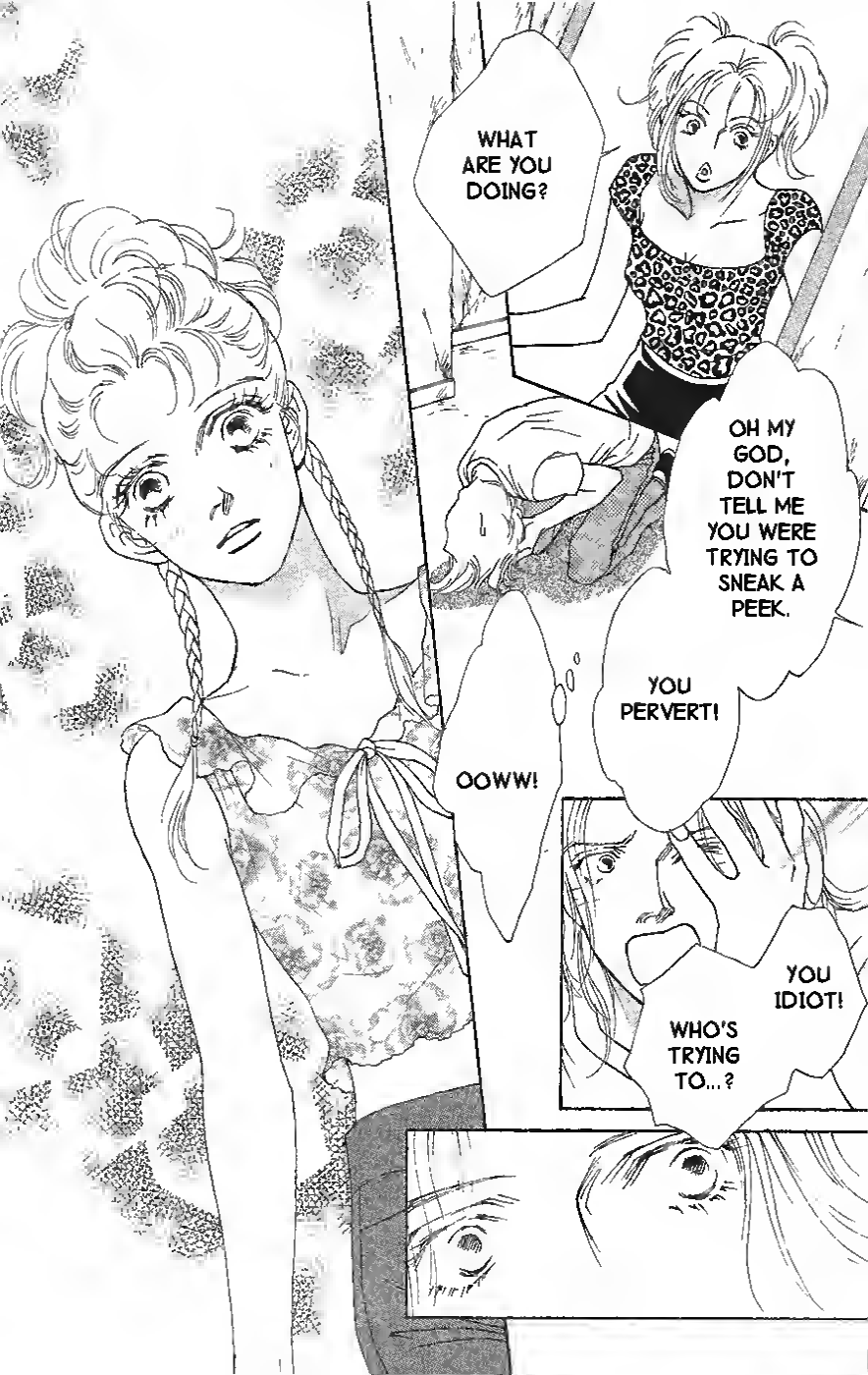

THERE'S A WOMAN LIVING IN THE BUILDING?
NO...
IT'S NOT A WOMAN.
I'M A WOMAN THROUGH AND THROUGH!
DAMN...
AAAAAAHH!
I JUST HAVE THE BODY OF A MAN.

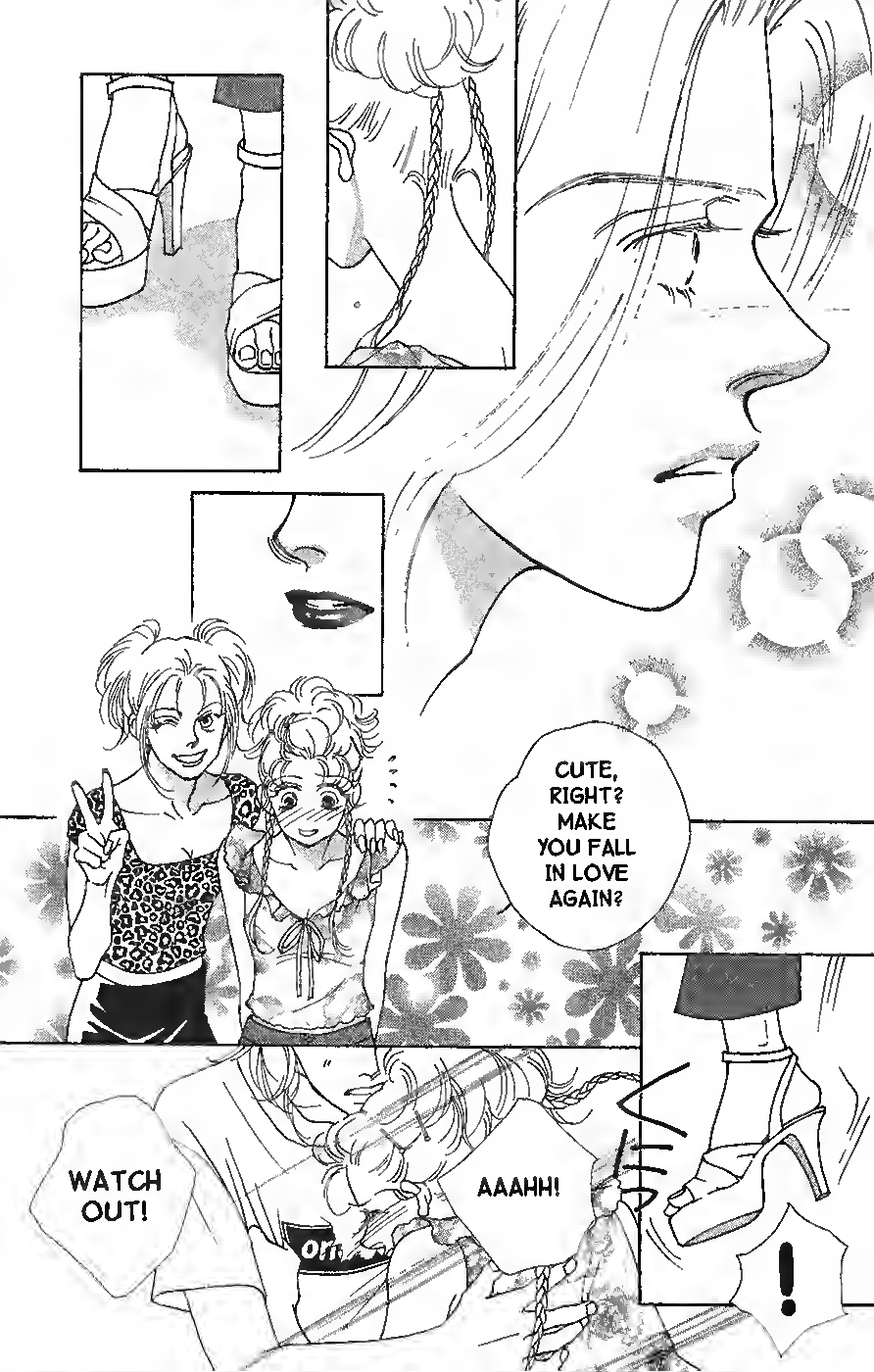
I'M VIOLET. I WORK AT A CLUB IN SHINJUKU.
THEY THINK I'M PRETTY STYLIN' THERE.
SO?! WHICH DO YOU WANT?
UH... BE COOL, VIOLET.
WE DON'T WANT SOMETHING THAT SCREAMS YOUR LINE OF WORK.
STICK TO SOMETHING AS NORMAL AND PLAIN AS POSSIBLE...
.....
Madem
one year

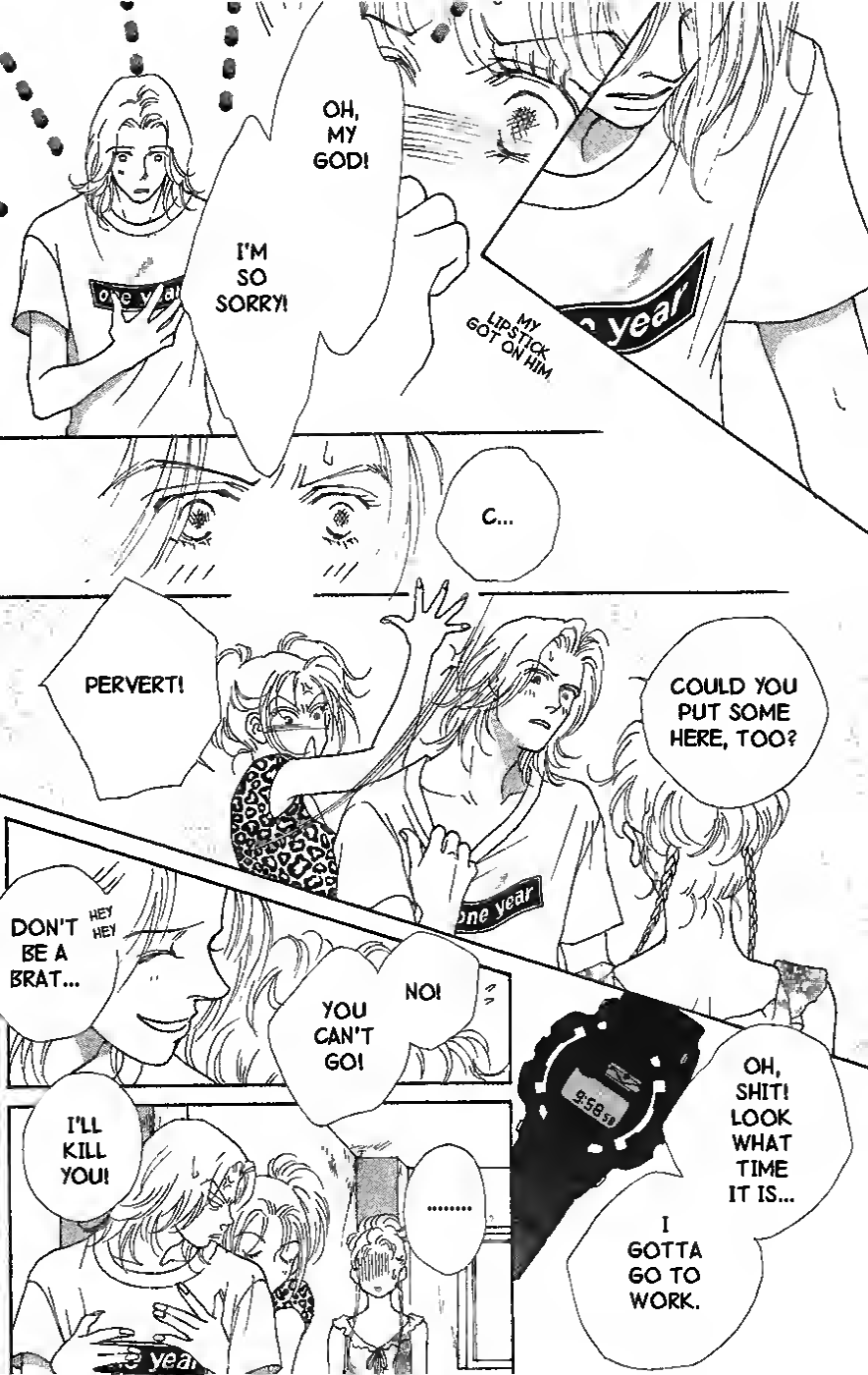

YOU'RE SO RUDE. MEN HAVE TO STAY OUT!
HEY, STOP IT! YOU CAN'T JUST GO THROUGH A LADY'S THINGS!
WHO'S A LADY?
THIS LOOKS ALL RIGHT.
IS THERE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?
UH
NO, IT'S JUST...
YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE REALLY A MAN...
WANNA LOOK AGAIN?


HMMM...
YOU'RE NOT SO BAD YOURSELF.
YOU'RE SO SILLY. IT'S JUST MAKEUP.
UNLIKE YOU GIRLS, I CAN'T JUST GO AS IS.
YOU HAVE A FACE THAT LOOKS...
...FUN TO PLAY AROUND WITH.

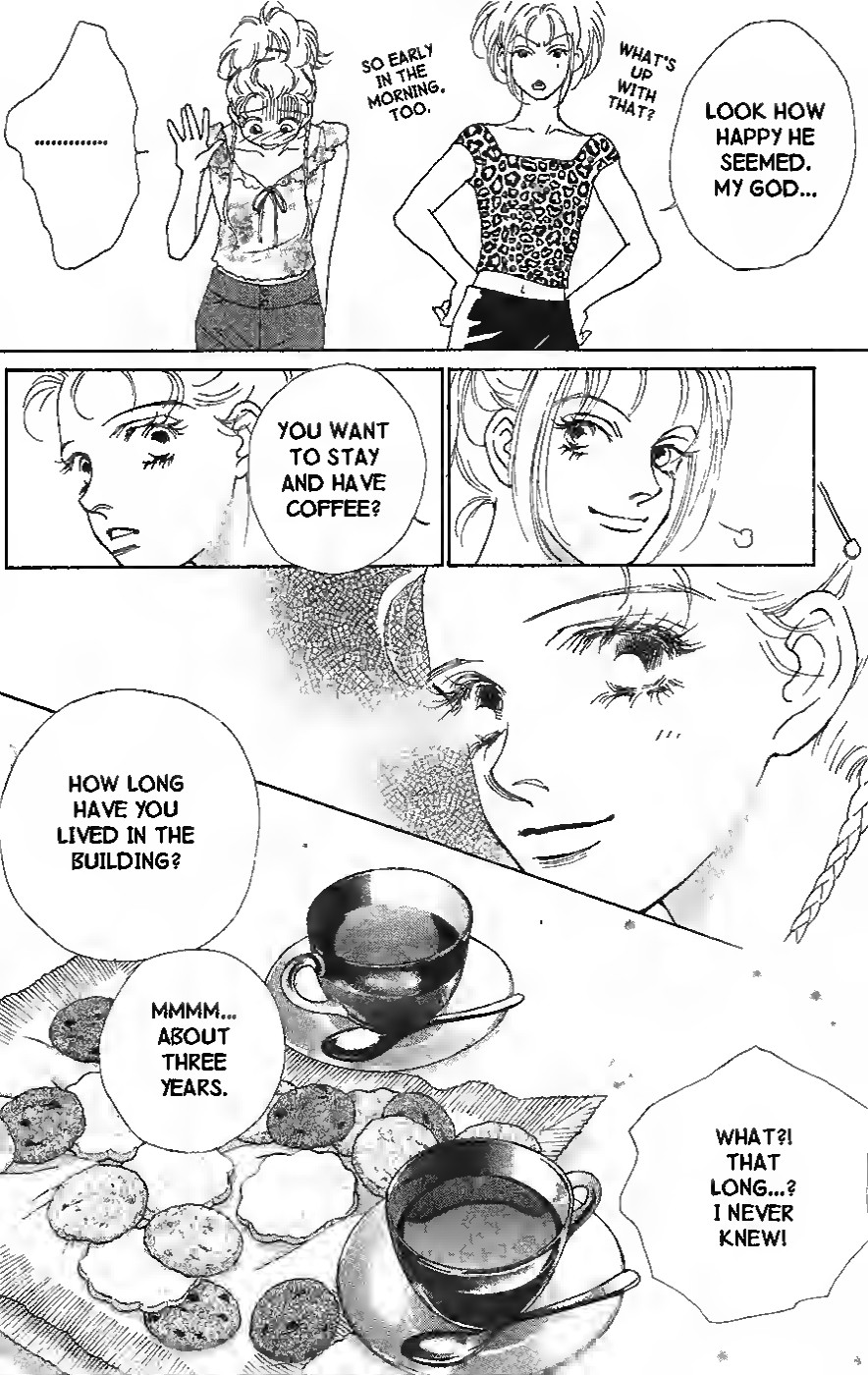
DAMN, THEY'RE TAKING FOREVER.
HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PUT ON SOME CLOTHES?
WHAT IF...?
HE'S UNDER CONSTRUCTION, BUT HE'S STILL GOT ONE...
VIOLET WAS A GUY AT ONE POINT...!
KIRA...!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH MY GOD, DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE TRYING TO SNEAK A PEEK.
YOU PERVERT!
OOWW!
YOU IDIOT!
WHO'S TRYING TO...?

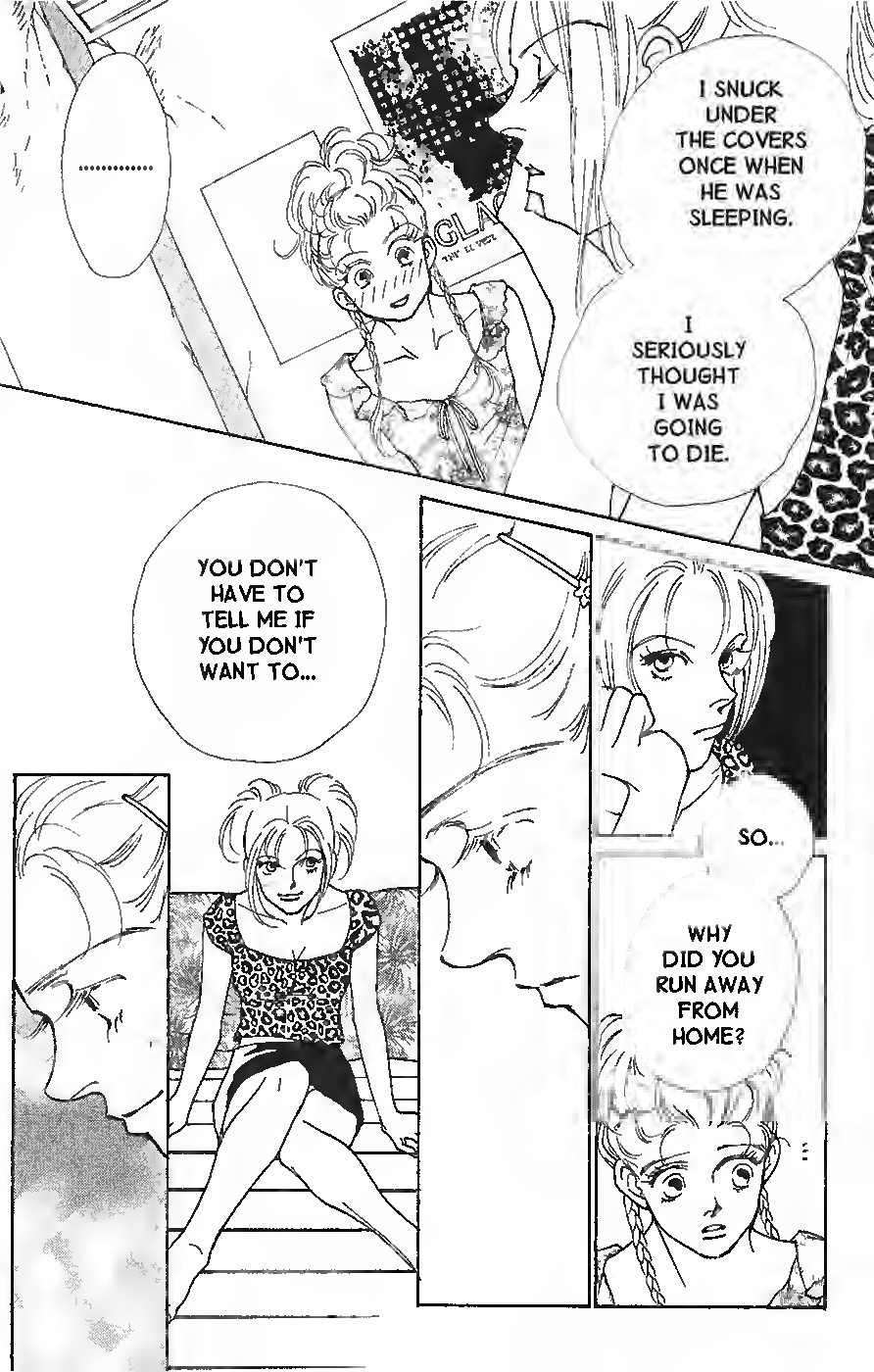

CUTE, RIGHT? MAKE YOU FALL IN LOVE AGAIN?
WATCH OUT!
AAAHH!
!

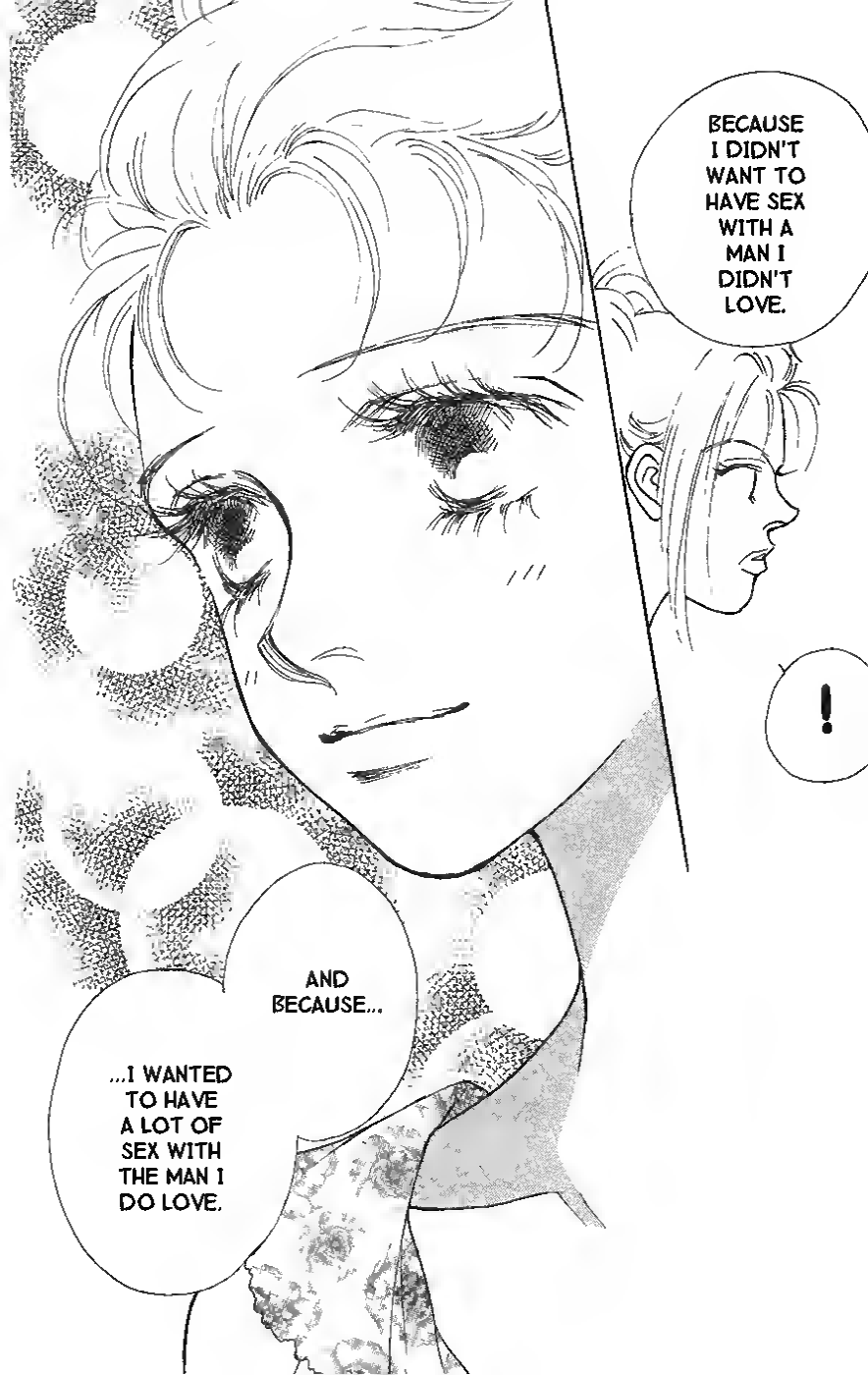

OH, MY GOD!
I'M SO SORRY!
MY LIPSTICK GOT ON HIM
C...
PERVERT!
COULD YOU PUT SOME HERE, TOO?
DON'T BE A BRAT...
HEY HEY
NO! YOU CAN'T GO!
I'LL KILL YOU!
.....
OH, SHIT! LOOK WHAT TIME IT IS...
I GOTTA GO TO WORK.

SEE YA.
HAVE FUN AT WORK!


.....
SO EARLY IN THE MORNING, TOO.
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
LOOK HOW HAPPY HE SEEMED. MY GOD...
YOU WANT TO STAY AND HAVE COFFEE?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE BUILDING?
MMMM... ABOUT THREE YEARS.
WHAT?! THAT LONG...? I NEVER KNEW!

I RUN INTO KENNY A LOT, BUT I'VE NEVER RUN INTO YOU BEFORE.
OH, I WORK AT NIGHT, SO MY SCHEDULE IS THE OPPOSITE OF EVERYONE ELSE'S.
IT'S PROBABLY ALSO BECAUSE REI...
...DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT ME.
?
REI AND I ACTUALLY HAVE A BIT OF A THING...
JUST KIDDING
IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN.
IT'S A JOKE! A JOKE!
THERE'S NO BOY HORNIER FOR GIRLS THAN REI.


.....
I SNUCK UNDER THE COVERS ONCE WHEN HE WAS SLEEPING.
I SERIOUSLY THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...
SO...
WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY FROM HOME?


BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE SEX WITH A MAN I DIDN'T LOVE.
!
AND BECAUSE...
...I WANTED TO HAVE A LOT OF SEX WITH THE MAN I DO LOVE.

I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT REINCARNATION IS LIKE...

IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING SPECIFIC ABOUT ME HAS CHANGED SINCE YESTERDAY...
KIRA?!
I'M HOME!
one yea
one year

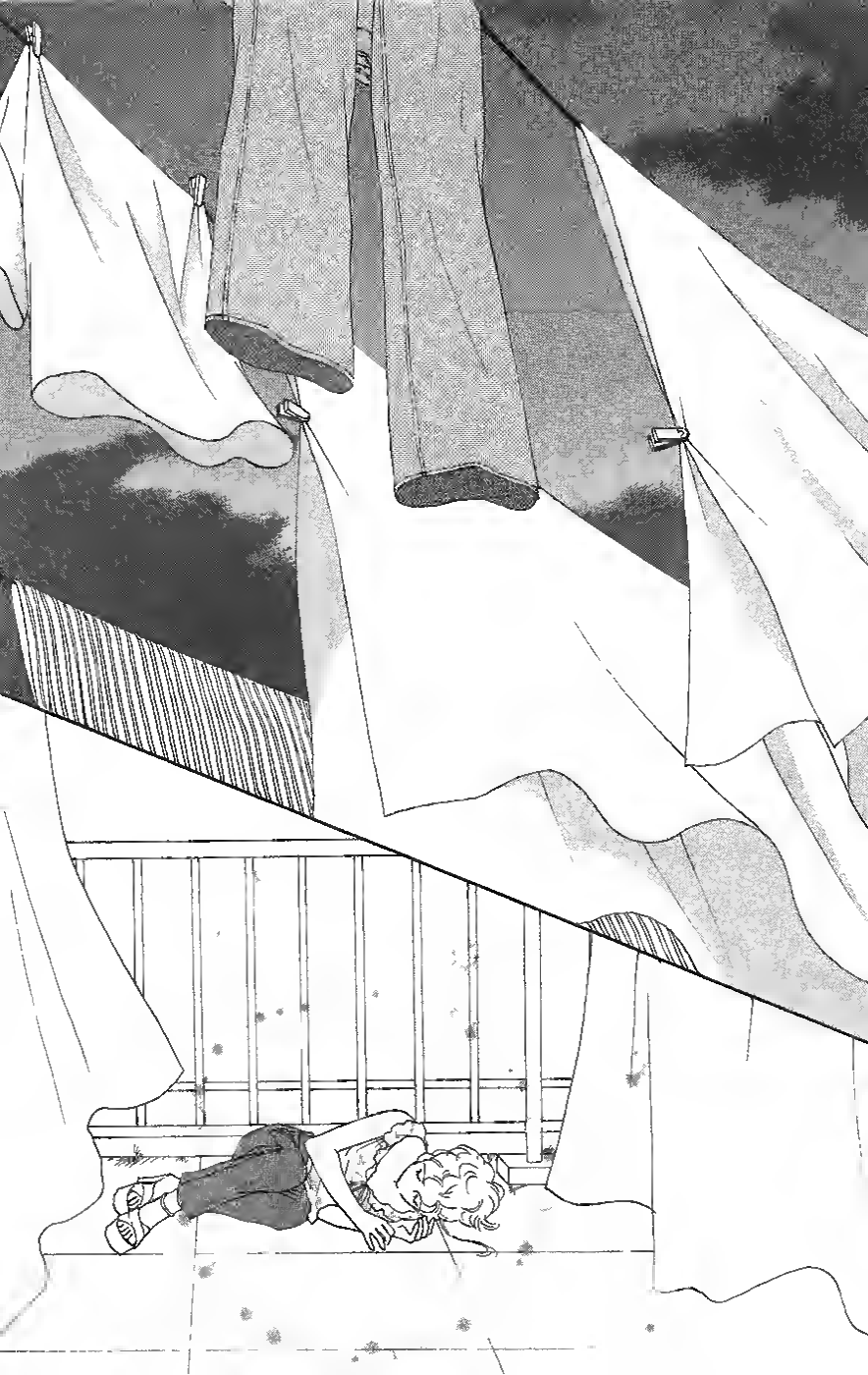
IT'S JUST THAT
I SEE EVERYTHING
A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY.

LIKE, THINGS I CARED A LOT
ABOUT DON'T MATTER AT ALL...

...OR THINGS I THOUGHT
WERE STUPID AREN'T ANYMORE...

...EVEN THOUGH I'M
STILL THE SAME PERSON.

EVERYTHING AROUND ME...
...KEEPS CHANGING SHAPE AND COLOR.



KIRA.
KIRA!
OH...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING SLEEPING UP HERE?
OH... I GUESS I FELL ASLEEP.

I GOT HOME AND YOU WEREN'T THERE. I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU.
I'M SORRY...
I GOT BORED WAITING FOR YOU.
SO I THOUGHT I'D DO SOME LAUNDRY.
I WASHED SOME SHIRTS AND JEANS IN THE TUB...
AND THEN I JUST GOT ALL INTO IT.
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS WASHING SHEETS AND STUFF...

WELCOME
HOME...

MARS

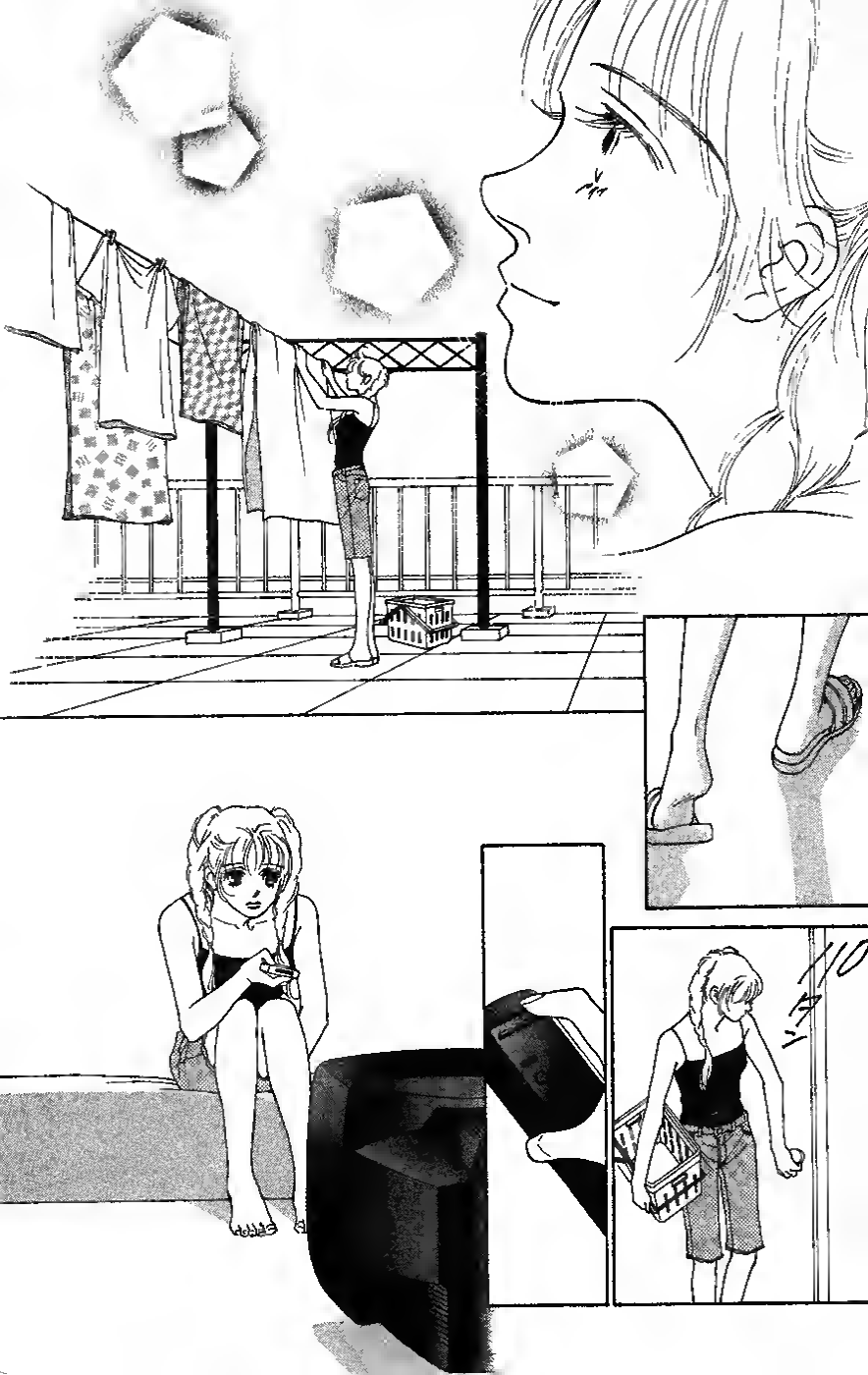
REI!
REI, GET UP!
YOU'LL BE LATE FOR WORK IF YOU DON'T GET UP.
NNNN...

I DON'T WANNA GO.
AACK!
YOU WANNA CALL IN?
I'LL GO.
I WANNA STAY LIKE THIS.

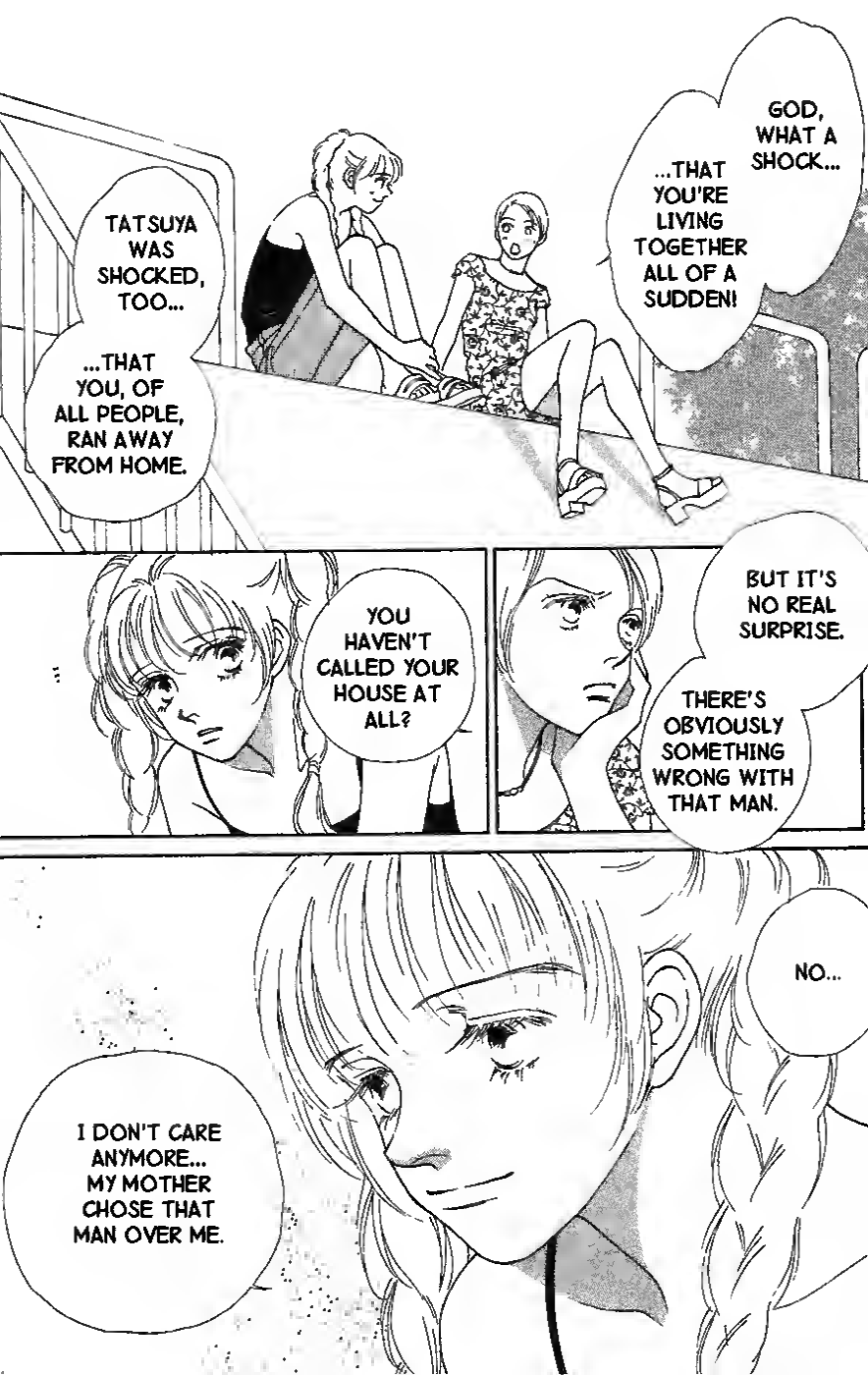
I'LL BE GETTING BACK A LITTLE LATE TODAY.
IF ANYTHING COMES UP, USE THAT.
CALL ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS.
OKAY?
OKAY, I'M OFF.
HEY... WAIT!
REI!
THIS?
YOUR LUNCH.
THEY SAY...
EATING OUT ISN'T GOOD FOR YOU, SO I TRIED MAKING SOMETHING.
WHAT'S THIS?
HERE.

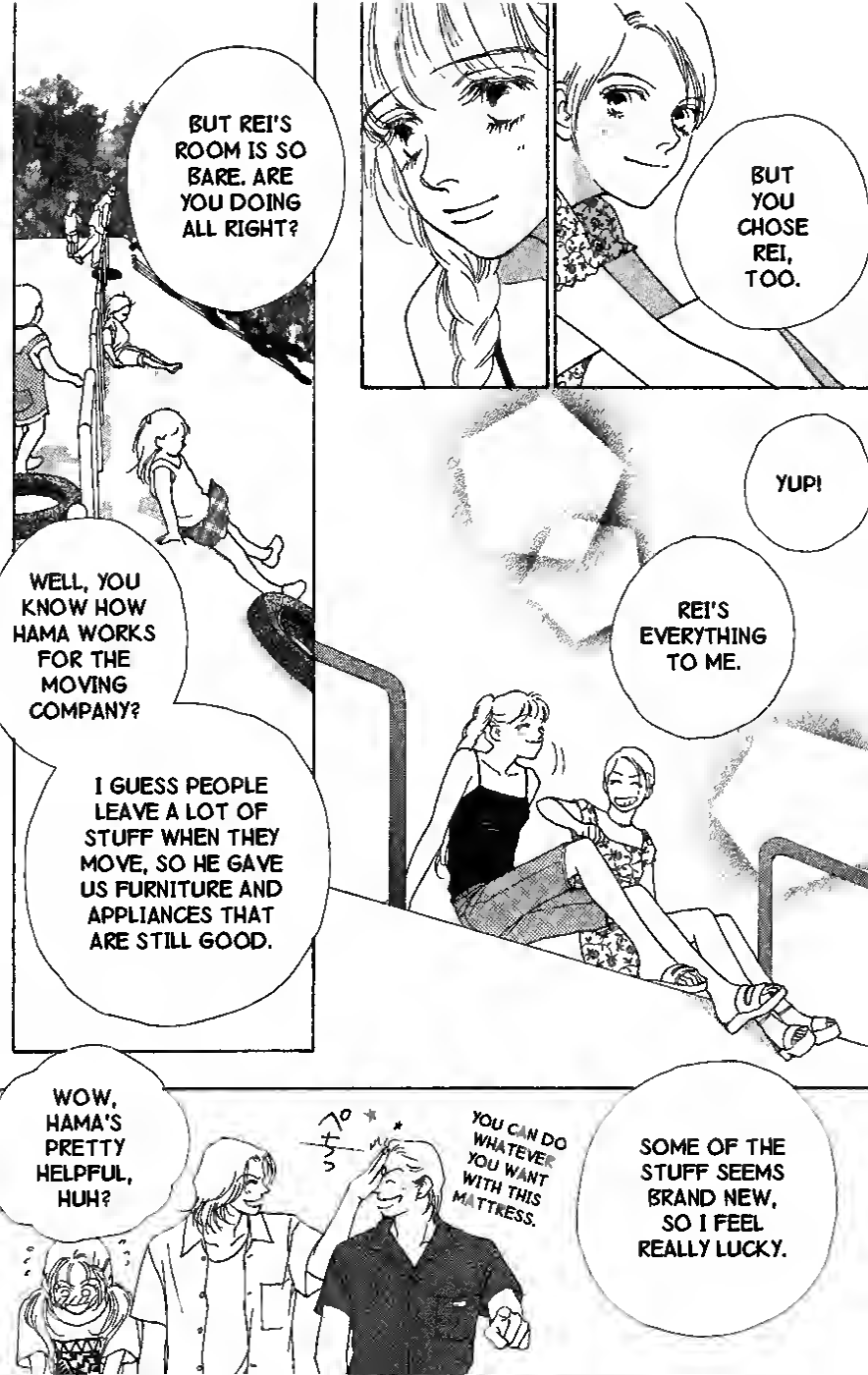
BUT YOU'RE OFF WORKING HARD EVERY DAY...
I'M JUST SITTING AROUND AT HOME.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...
THE LEAST I CAN DO IS COOK FOR YOU.

HEY, BUDDY, LUNCH FROM HOME... AT YOUR AGE?
IS THAT FROM YOUR LOVING WIFE?
WHAT?!
YOU'RE MARRIED, REI?
YOUNG GUYS ARE SO LUCKY.
MINE DOESN'T EVEN MAKE ME TEA ANYMORE.
IT'S NOT GONNA BE A HONEYMOON FOREVER.
MARRIAGE, KIDS...



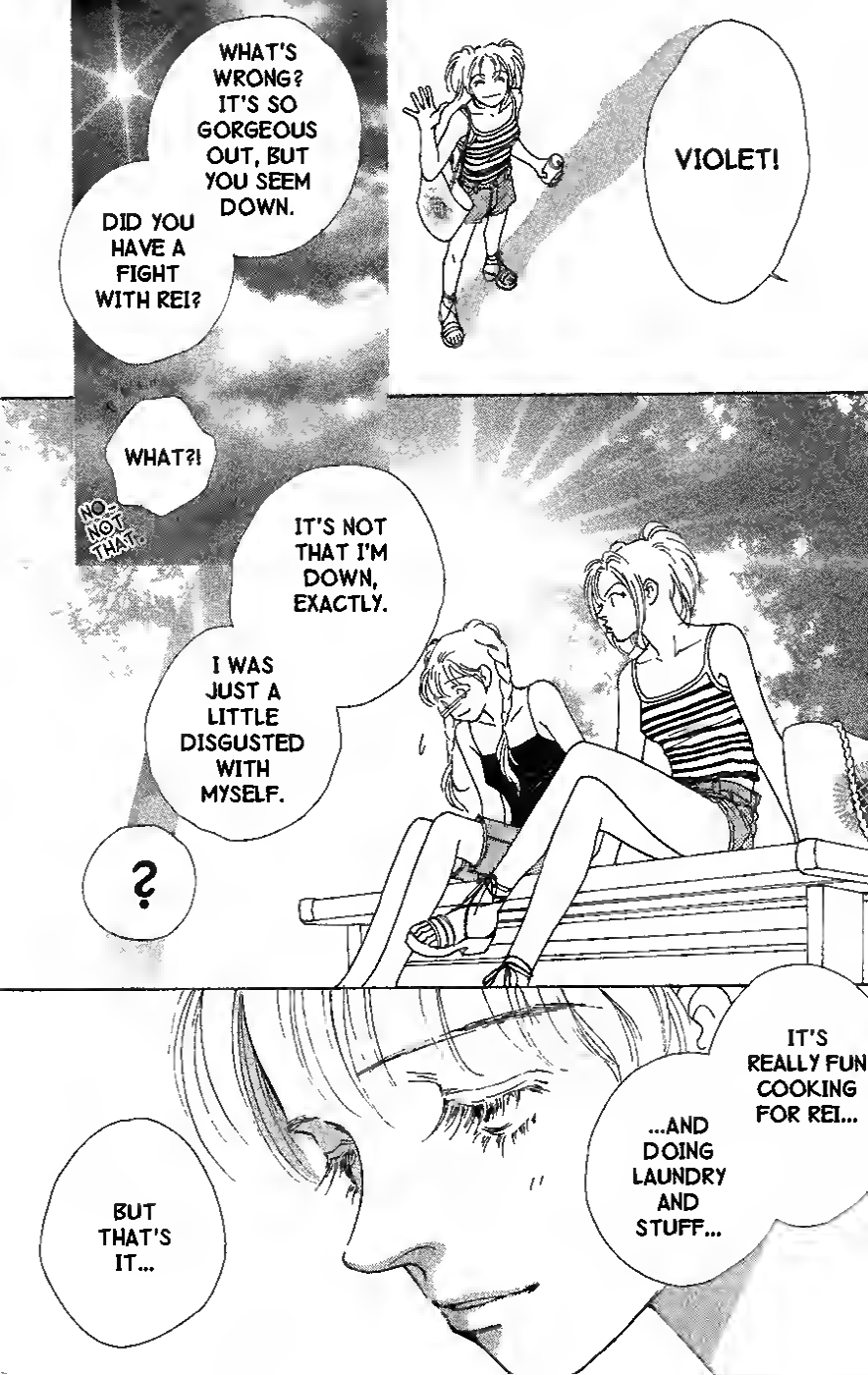
Girl receives transplant
HELLO?
RING RING
!
HARUMI?


GOD, WHAT A SHOCK...
...THAT YOU'RE LIVING TOGETHER ALL OF A SUDDEN!
TATSUYA WAS SHOCKED, TOO...
...THAT YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, RAN AWAY FROM HOME.
YOU HAVEN'T CALLED YOUR HOUSE AT ALL?
BUT IT'S NO REAL SURPRISE.
THERE'S OBVIOUSLY SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT MAN.
NO...
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE... MY MOTHER CHOSE THAT MAN OVER ME.


BUT REI'S ROOM IS SO BARE. ARE YOU DOING ALL RIGHT?
BUT YOU CHOSE REI, TOO.
YUP!
REI'S EVERYTHING TO ME.
WELL, YOU KNOW HOW HAMA WORKS FOR THE MOVING COMPANY?
I GUESS PEOPLE LEAVE A LOT OF STUFF WHEN THEY MOVE, SO HE GAVE US FURNITURE AND APPLIANCES THAT ARE STILL GOOD.
WOW, HAMA'S PRETTY HELPFUL, HUH?
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH THIS MATTRESS.
SOME OF THE STUFF SEEMS BRAND NEW, SO I FEEL REALLY LUCKY.

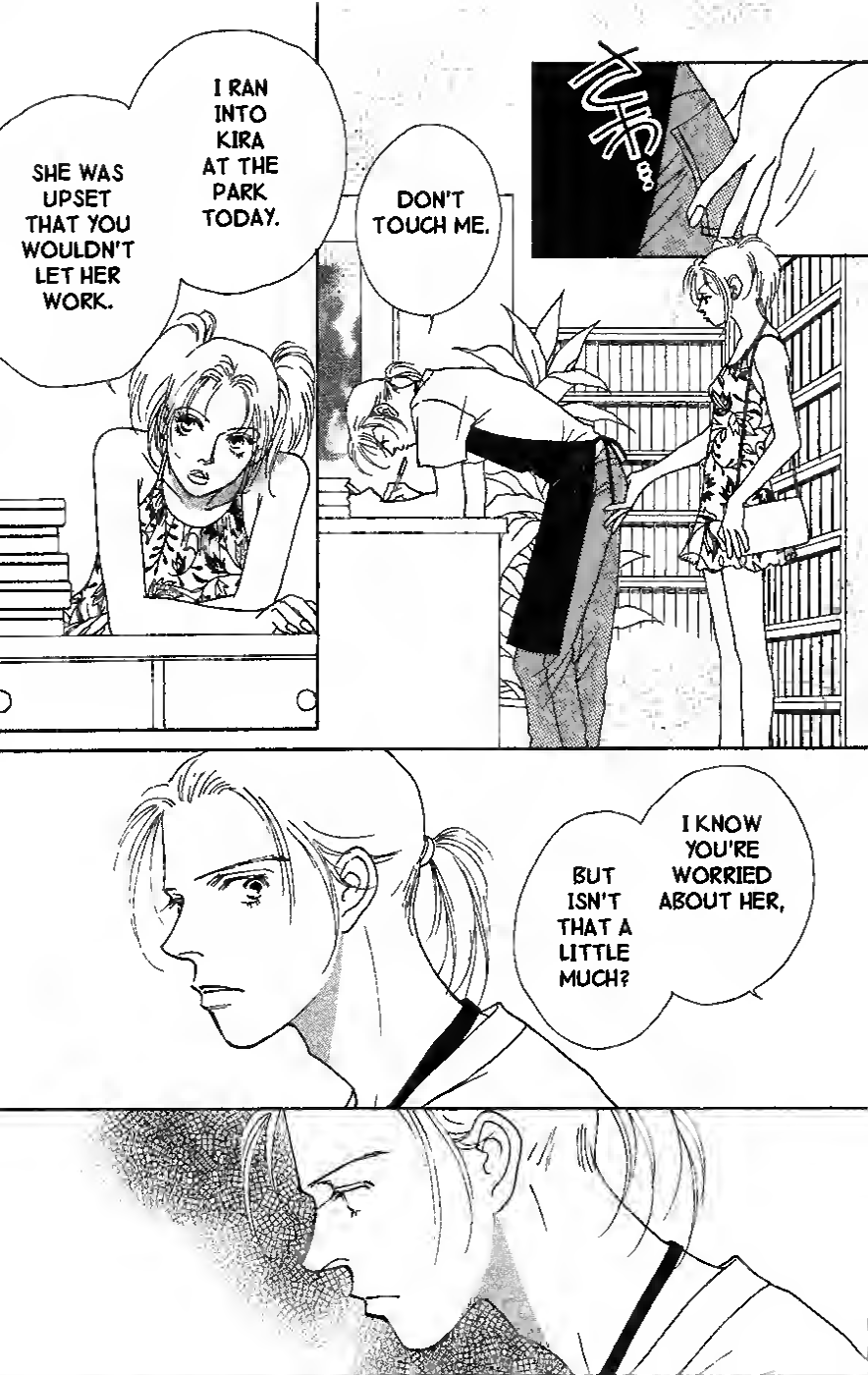
EVEN IF IT'S GARBAGE, IT'S A CASTLE TO US.
SHIT!
I'M GONNA BE LATE.
I'LL CALL YOU!

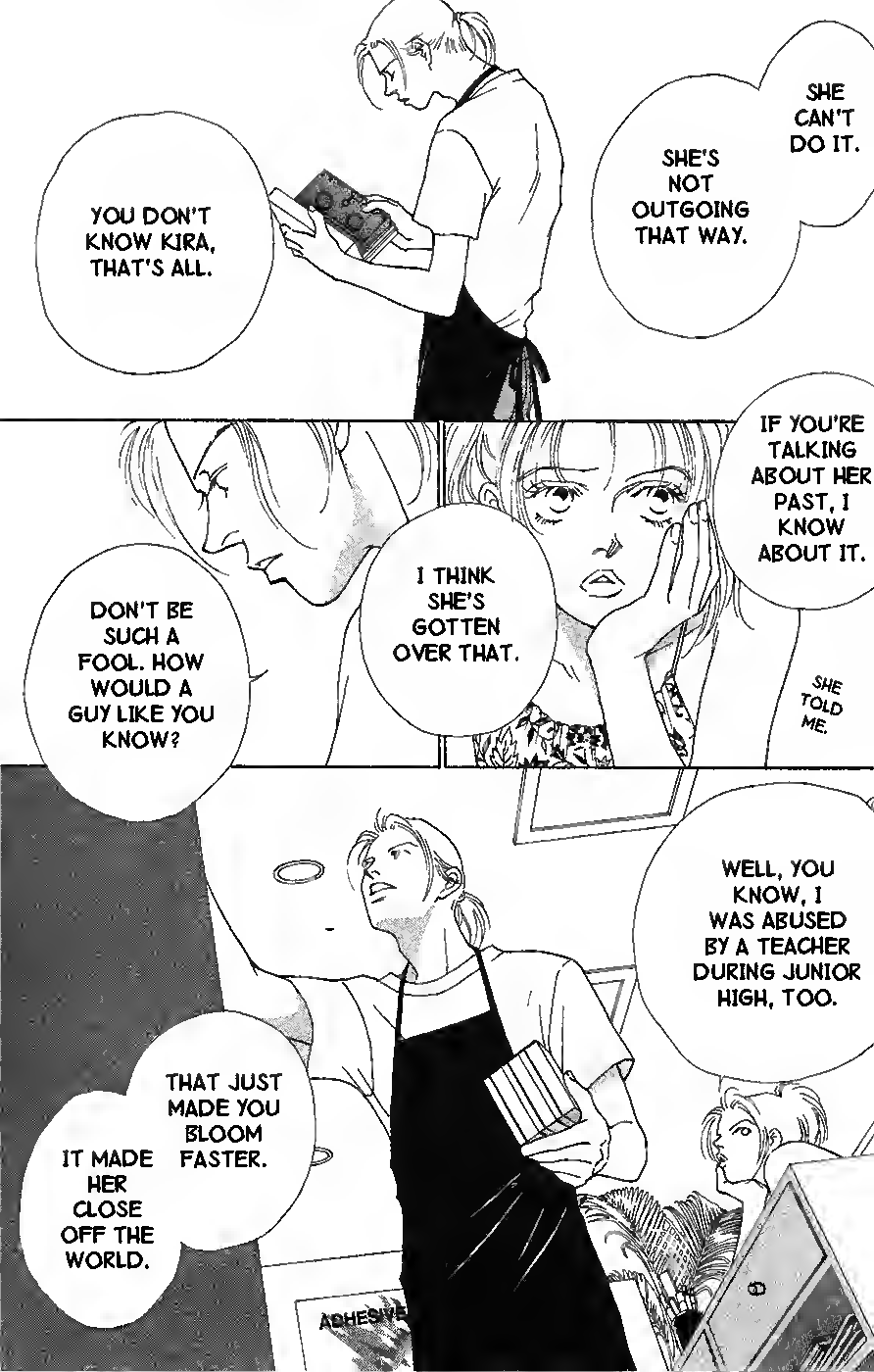
KIRA!
!


VIOLET!
WHAT'S WRONG? IT'S SO GORGEOUS OUT, BUT YOU SEEM DOWN.
DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT WITH REI?
WHAT?!
NO- NOT THAT.
IT'S NOT THAT I'M DOWN, EXACTLY.
I WAS JUST A LITTLE DISGUSTED WITH MYSELF.
?
IT'S REALLY FUN COOKING FOR REI...
...AND DOING LAUNDRY AND STUFF...
BUT THAT'S IT...

IT'S SUMMER VACATION! JUST PARTY WITH YOUR FRIENDS!
EVERYONE'S WORKING OR TAKING CLASSES.
THAT'S NOT HOW A YOUNG GIRL SHOULD THINK.
I COOK AND I CLEAN, AND THEN THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO DO.
THE DAY JUST SEEMS REALLY LONG.
REI GOT ANOTHER JOB.
HE'S WORKING CONSTRUCTION DURING THE DAY AND AT A VIDEO STORE AT NIGHT...
OH MY GOD, HOW DOES HE DO IT?
OUR LIVING EXPENSES ARE HIGHER WITH ME THERE...

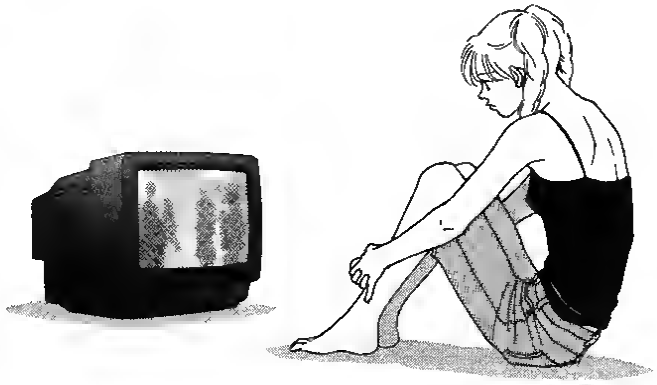
HE SAID IT'D BE TOO MUCH FOR ME.
I'VE NEVER WORKED BEFORE.
I WANT TO WORK, TOO...
BUT REI SAID I SHOULDN'T.
WHAT? WHY?
REALLY... I'M JUST COMPLETELY USELESS.
I FEEL PATHETIC...
レンタルビデオ CD

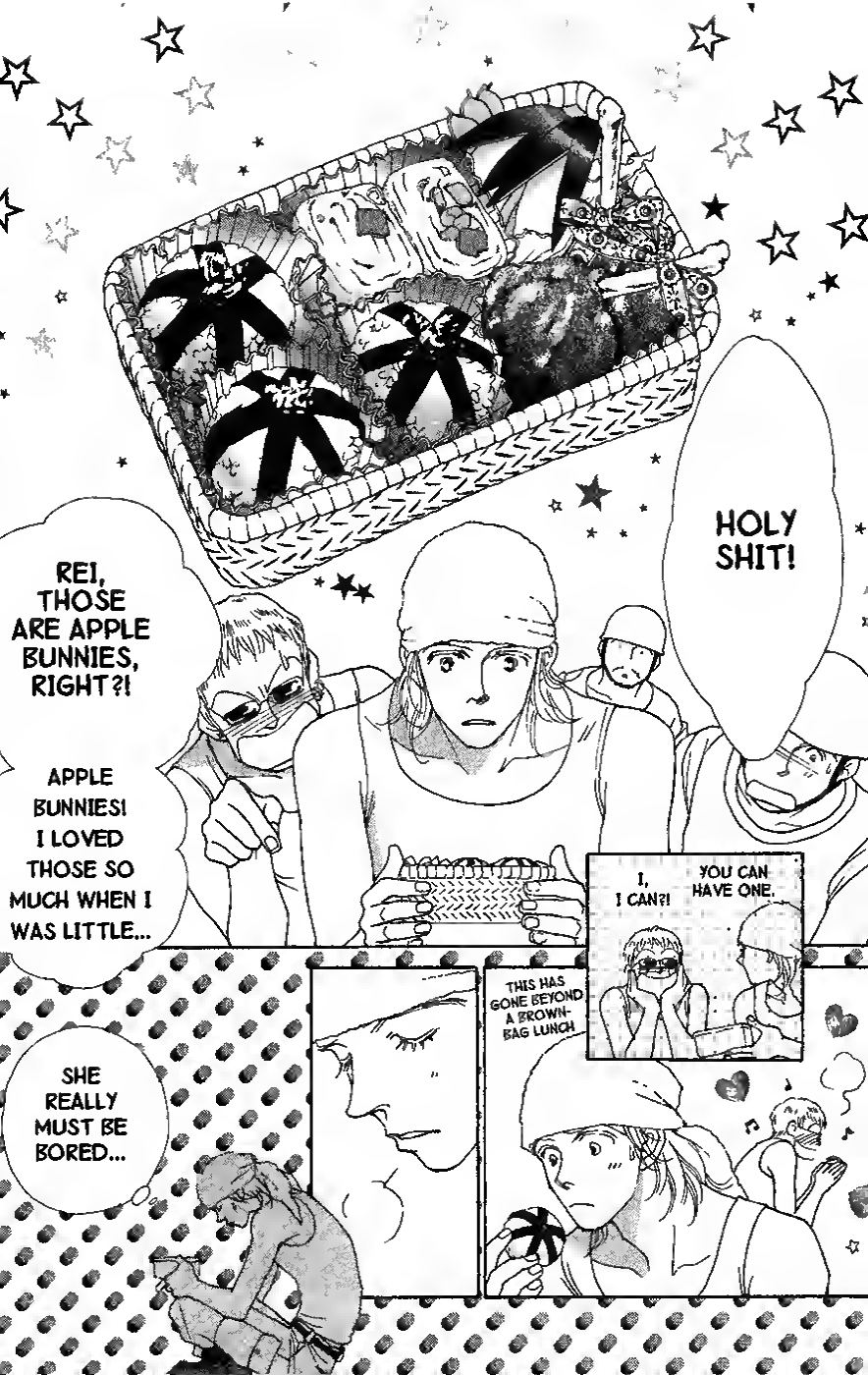

I RAN INTO KIRA AT THE PARK TODAY.
SHE WAS UPSET THAT YOU WOULDN'T LET HER WORK.
DON'T TOUCH ME.
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HER,
BUT ISN'T THAT A LITTLE MUCH?


YOU DON'T KNOW KIRA, THAT'S ALL.
SHE'S NOT OUTGOING THAT WAY.
SHE CAN'T DO IT.
DON'T BE SUCH A FOOL. HOW WOULD A GUY LIKE YOU KNOW?
I THINK SHE'S GOTTEN OVER THAT.
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT HER PAST, I KNOW ABOUT IT.
SHE TOLD ME.
IT MADE HER CLOSE OFF THE WORLD.
THAT JUST MADE YOU BLOOM FASTER.
WELL, YOU KNOW, I WAS ABUSED BY A TEACHER DURING JUNIOR HIGH, TOO.

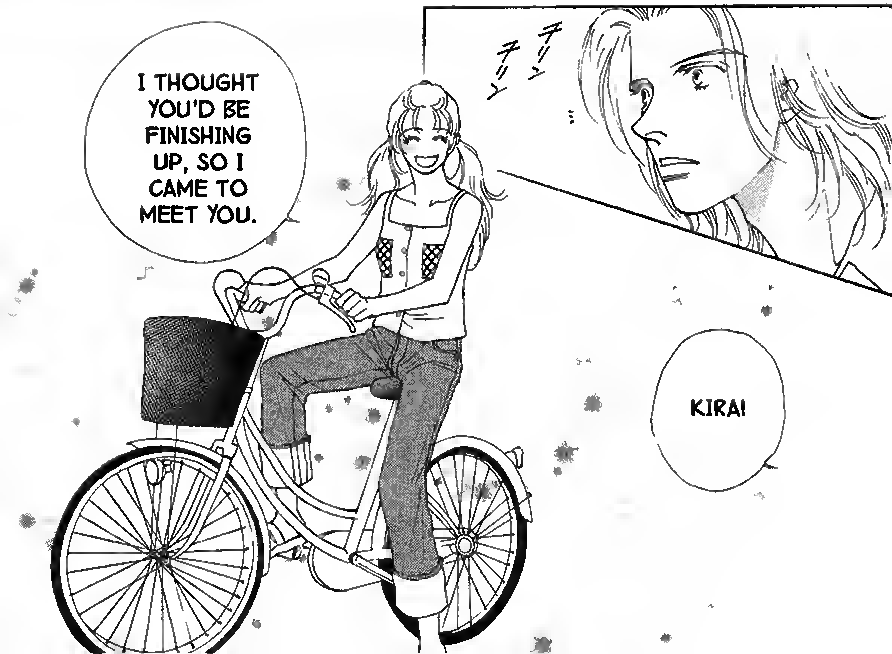
YOU FEEL FULFILLED BY WORKING HARD FOR HER...
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD BE OVER-PROTECTIVE.
THE MORE YOU DO THAT TO HER, THE MORE SHE'LL JUST FEEL PATHETIC.
!
SHE FEELS LIKE EXCESS BAGGAGE.
...BUT IT JUST MAKES HER FEEL LIKE A BURDEN.
I DON'T THINK OF HER AS BAGGAGE.
THAT'S YOUR PERSPECTIVE, BUT KIRA HAS HER OWN VIEW.

JUST WAITING AROUND AT HOME ISN'T SO FUN.
YOU'RE RUNNING AROUND IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD, SO YOU DON'T KNOW.
IT CAN BE PRETTY TOUGH BEING TOLD THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING.




HOLY SHIT!
REI, THOSE ARE APPLE BUNNIES, RIGHT?!
APPLE BUNNIES! I LOVED THOSE SO MUCH WHEN I WAS LITTLE...
I, I CAN?!
YOU CAN HAVE ONE.
THIS HAS GONE BEYOND A BROWN-BAG LUNCH.
SHE REALLY MUST BE BORED...

G'NIGHT.


I THOUGHT YOU'D BE FINISHING UP, SO I CAME TO MEET YOU.
チリン チリン
KIRA!

YOU KNOW, JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE CLOSE BY DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD BE WANDERING AROUND ALONE AT NIGHT.
BUT I WAS BORED.
VIOLET SAID I COULD BORROW HER BIKE, SO I RODE OVER RIGHT AWAY.
THIS IS VIOLET'S BIKE?
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THE SEAT FEELS.
HOW WAS YOUR LUNCH TODAY? DID YOU LIKE IT?
YEAH, IT WAS AWESOME.
IT GOT QUITE A REACTION AT THE SITE.
?

I KNOW YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO WORK...
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHERE?
THAT'S FINE, BUT SERVICE IS HARD, KIRA.
YEAH...
...AT THE BURGER PLACE HARUMI WORKS.
UGH! THE SERVICE INDUSTRY?
BUT THE PLACE IS PRETTY CLOSE TO WHERE YOU WORK.
THE LADIES ARE BITCHY, THE KIDS ARE DIRTY, THE GUYS ARE SKETCHY.
YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE IT?

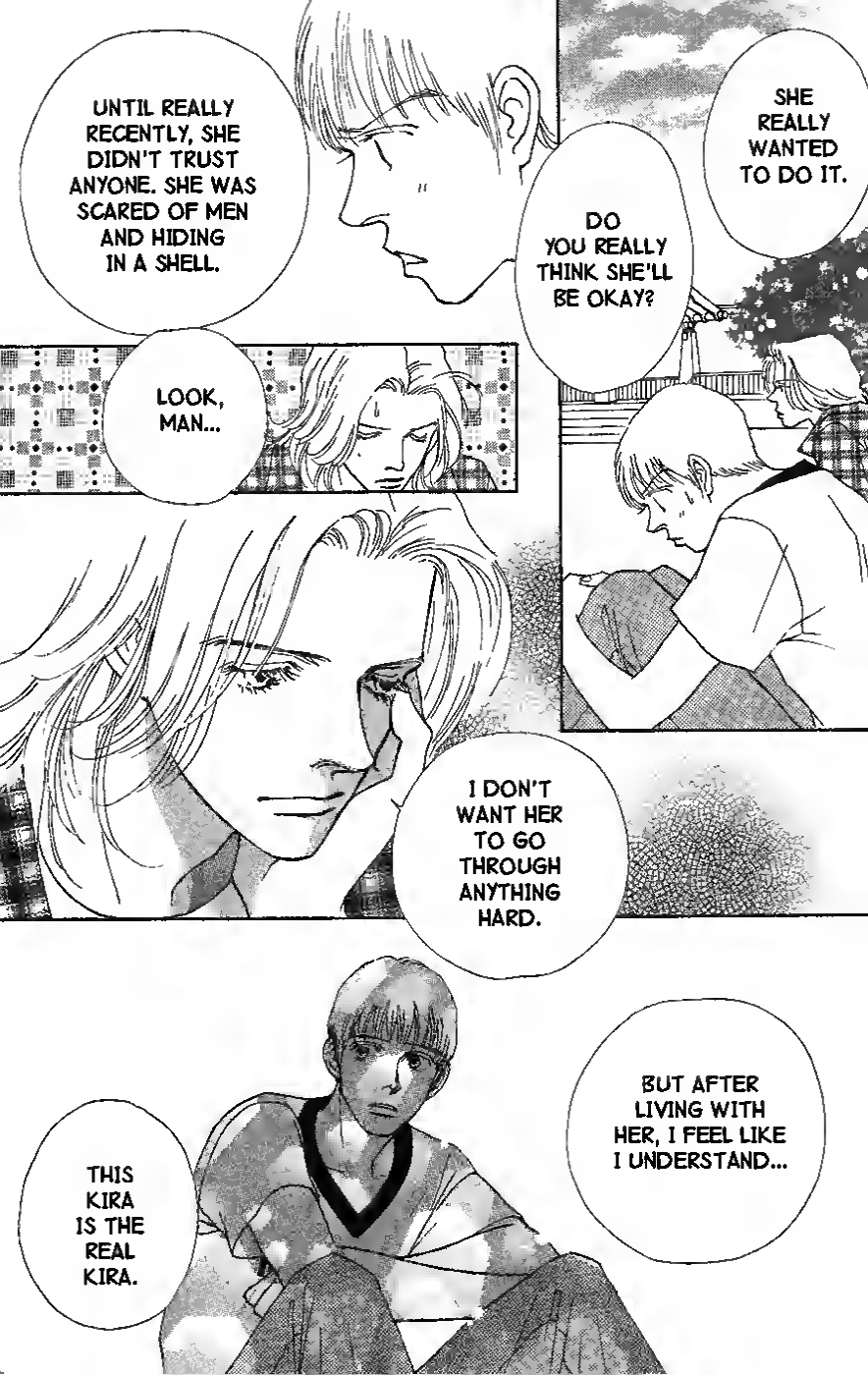
I GUESS IT'S POINTLESS TO WORRY ABOUT IT BEFORE YOU EVEN START.
YOU SHOULD START, AND THEN SEE HOW IT IS.
WELL, I WON'T KNOW UNTIL I TRY.
SO, YOU MEAN...
WELL, IT'S YOUR DECISION.

WHOA!
YAAY!
AAAAAHH! THANK YOU, REI!!

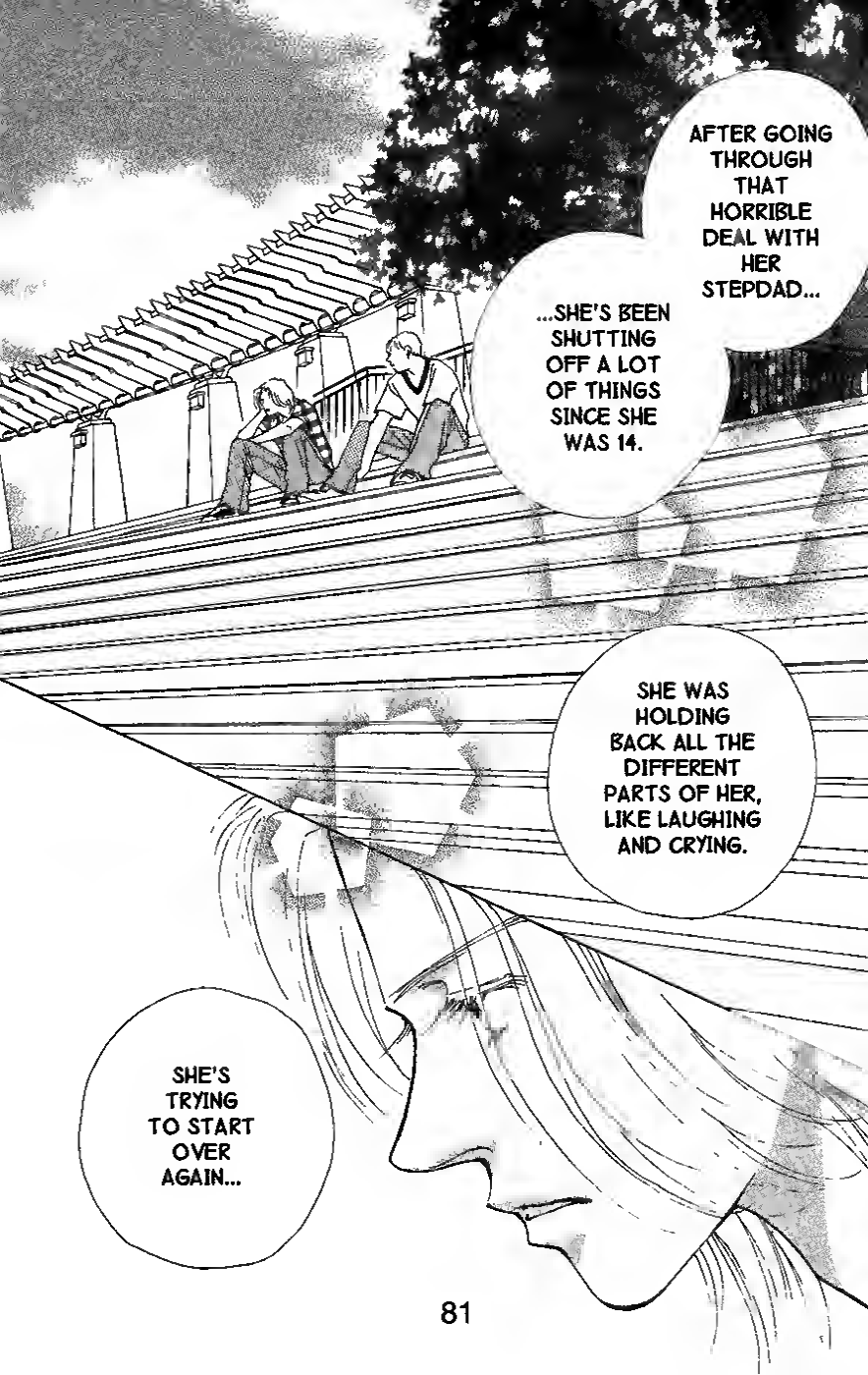
WHY DO YOU KEEP LOOKING AT YOUR BANK BOOK?
ARE YOU THAT EXCITED TO START WORKING?
WHAT?
NO, IT'S NOT THAT...
IT'S JUST THAT WHEN THEY CALLED MY NAME...

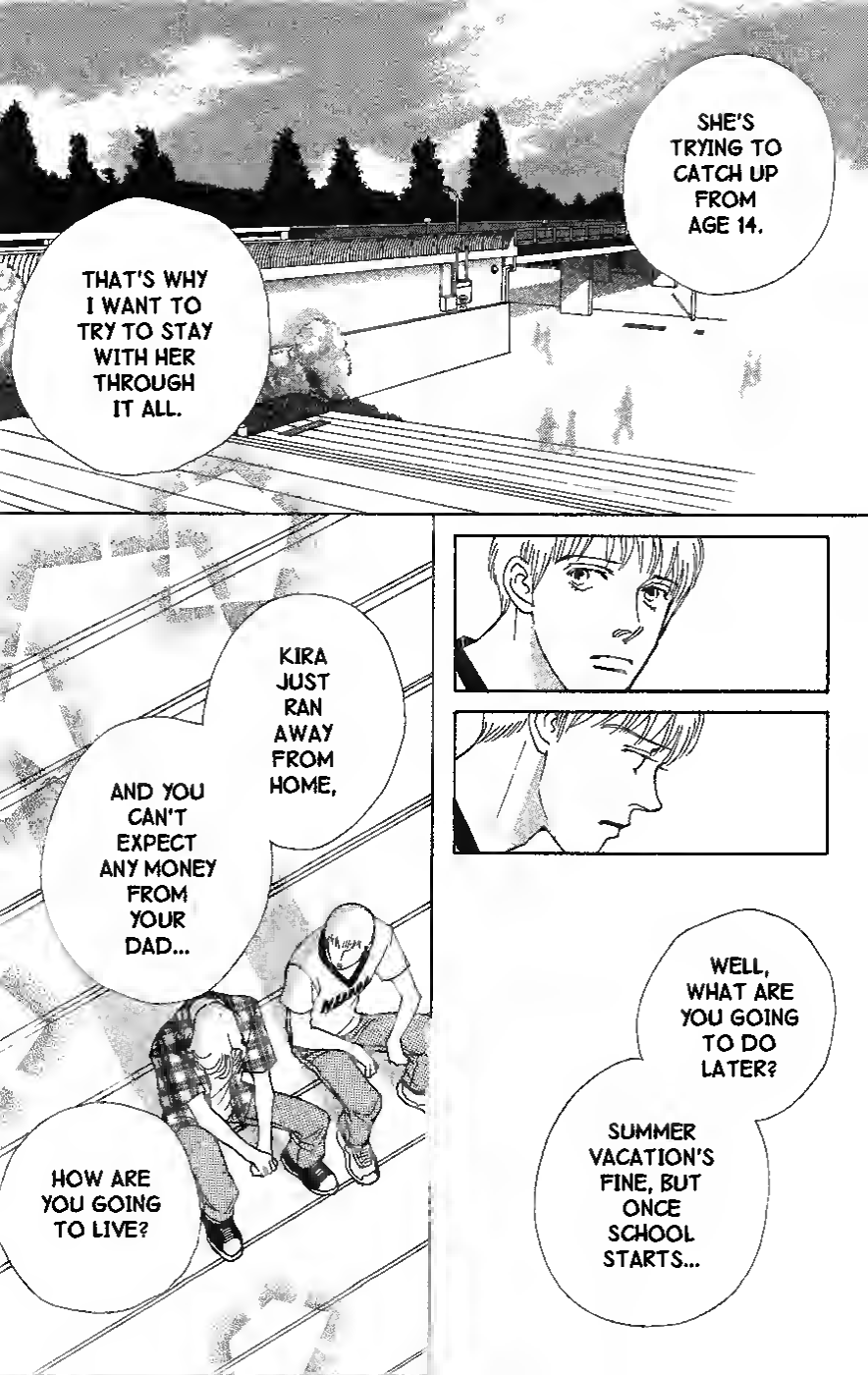
...THEY CALLED ME KIRA KASHINO.
!
OF COURSE THEY DID. YOU OPENED AN ACCOUNT WITH MY INFORMATION.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
IT'S LIKE I GOT MARRIED AND BECAME A WIFE.
ALL I DID WAS BORROW YOUR NAME, BUT I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN BORN AGAIN! I'M SO HAPPY!
樫野キラ

KIRA'S WORKING AT THE BURGER JOINT?!
WHAT?!
I COULDN'T HELP IT.
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY OKAY WITH THAT?


UNTIL REALLY RECENTLY, SHE DIDN'T TRUST ANYONE. SHE WAS SCARED OF MEN AND HIDING IN A SHELL.
SHE REALLY WANTED TO DO IT.
DO YOU REALLY THINK SHE'LL BE OKAY?
LOOK, MAN...
I DON'T WANT HER TO GO THROUGH ANYTHING HARD.
BUT AFTER LIVING WITH HER, I FEEL LIKE I UNDERSTAND...
THIS KIRA IS THE REAL KIRA.

GRIPING THAT SHE'S BORED...
REALLY WANTING TO HAVE A JOB...
GETTING EXCITED OR LETTING HERSELF FEEL SAD...
THIS IS THE REAL KIRA.


AFTER GOING THROUGH THAT HORRIBLE DEAL WITH HER STEPDAD...
...SHE'S BEEN SHUTTING OFF A LOT OF THINGS SINCE SHE WAS 14.
SHE WAS HOLDING BACK ALL THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF HER, LIKE LAUGHING AND CRYING.
SHE'S TRYING TO START OVER AGAIN...


SHE'S TRYING TO CATCH UP FROM AGE 14.
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO TRY TO STAY WITH HER THROUGH IT ALL.
KIRA JUST RAN AWAY FROM HOME,
AND YOU CAN'T EXPECT ANY MONEY FROM YOUR DAD...
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE?
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO LATER?
SUMMER VACATION'S FINE, BUT ONCE SCHOOL STARTS...

I'M SURE KIRA'S PARENTS WON'T STAND BY...
...AFTER THEIR DAUGHTER HAS RUN AWAY.
AND I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THE FACT THAT SHE'S CRASHING AT SOME GUY'S PLACE...
ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING ABOUT QUITTING SCHOOL...
!

QUITTING SCHOOL AND...
...MARRYING KIRA WHEN I TURN 18.
THEN I'LL BE SOCIALLY AND LAWFULLY HER GUARDIAN.

I'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF HER WITHOUT ANYONE SAYING ANYTHING.

WHOEVER IS FREE RIGHT NOW, SWEEP UP THE FLOOR.
HELLO.
I CAN TAKE YOUR ORDER WHENEVER YOU'RE READY!
IT'S ALL RIGHT...
I'LL DO IT.
OKAY.

HEY, COULD YOU COME AND CLEAN UP OVER HERE, TOO?
SHIT, THAT'S COLD!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOIN'?
SURE.
!

AAAH!
WHOA!

OWWWW!
KIRA?!

BITCH...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? I'M A CUSTOMER!

WHAT THE HELL KIND OF PLACE IS THIS...
...GETTING VIOLENT ON CUSTOMERS?
I'M REALLY SORRY.
I TRULY APOLOGIZE.

A COUPON FOR A FREE MEAL... WHAT A RIP-OFF.
BUT THAT GIRL WAS PRETTY CUTE...
YEAH, THAT'S YOUR TYPE, ISN'T IT?
LOOK,
YOU CAN'T DO THAT SORT OF THING.
I LOVE THAT SHE SEEMS SO FUN TO HARASS.
HAHAHA!
THAT'D BE GOOD.
MAYBE YOU'LL HOOK UP WITH HER AFTER THIS.

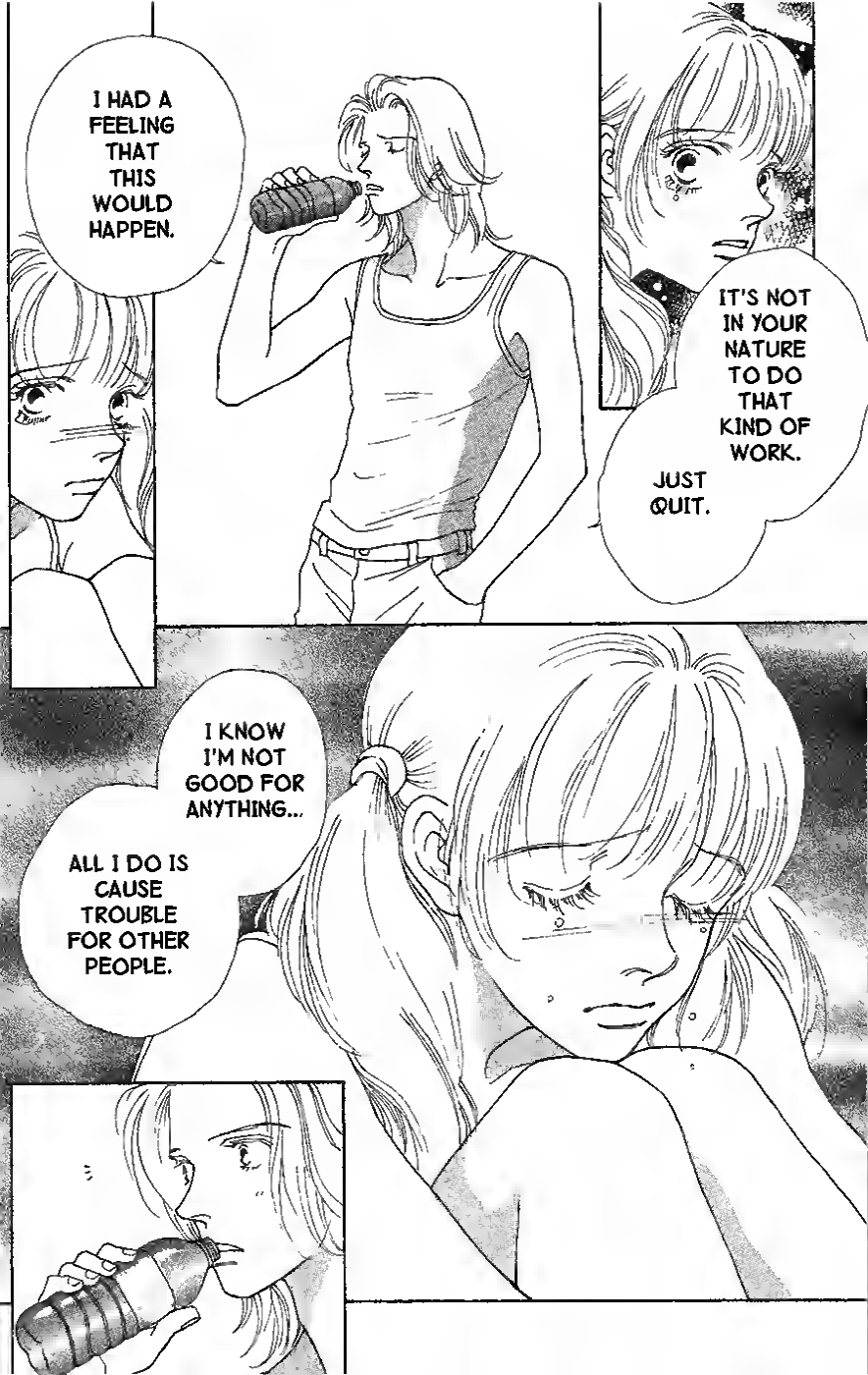
IT WAS THEIR FAULT!
TOUCHING HER THAT WAY...
IT WASN'T ENOUGH TO WARRANT SUCH A RESPONSE, WAS IT?
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S ANY LOSS TO YOU...
...JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE TOUCHES YOU.
HOW COULD YOU...?

!
109
REI!
UM... THERE WERE SOME SKEEVY GUYS AT WORK TODAY.
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

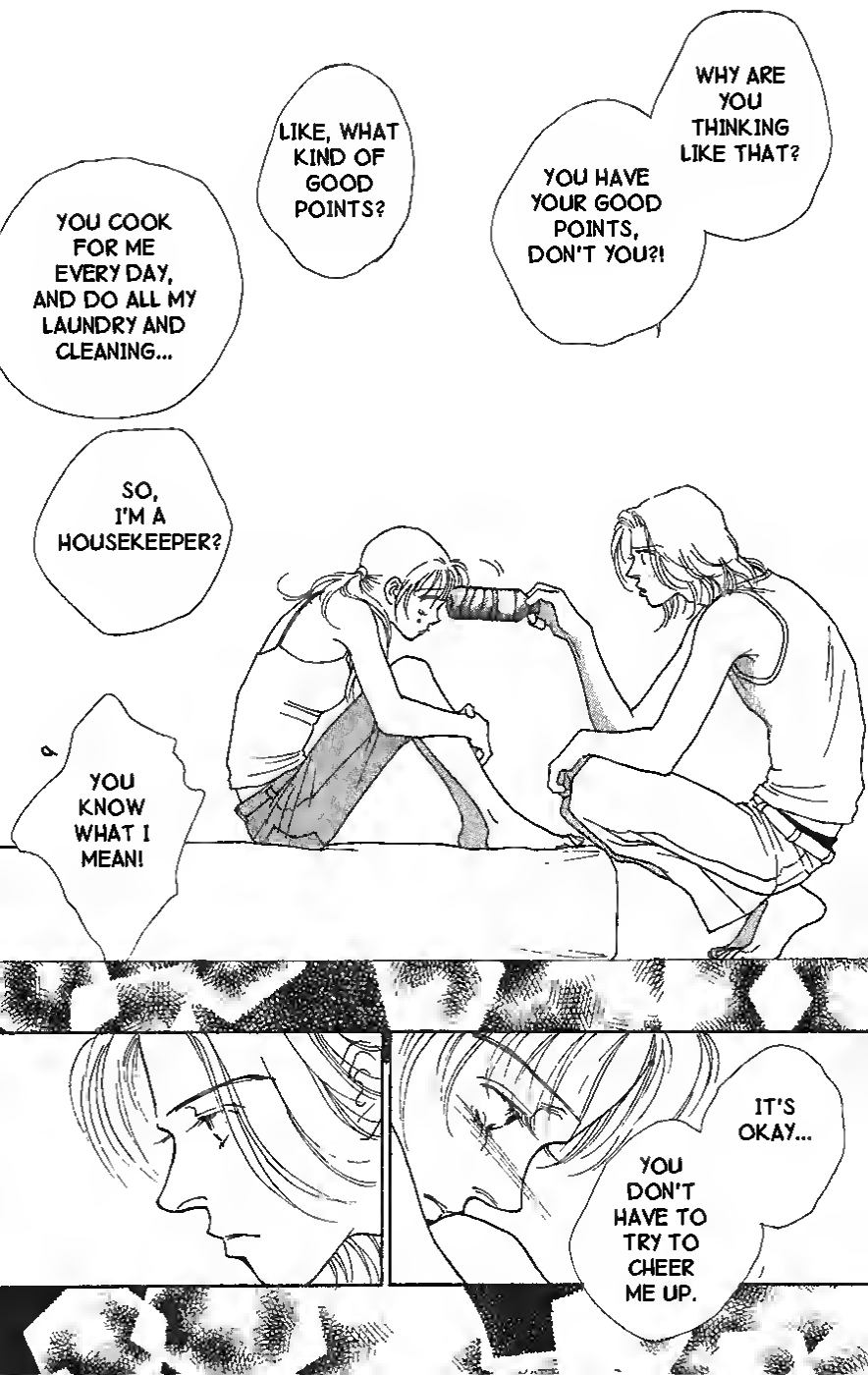
I'M SORRY, REI...
IT WAS WRONG FO ME TO SUGGEST WORKING TO KIRA.
I HAD NO IDEA THIS WOULD HAPPEN...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
BUT SHE WAS SO AFFECTED BY IT...
WHAT IF THIS BECOMES ANOTHER TRAUMATIC THING FOR HER?

SHE'S JUST DEPRESSED BECAUSE SHE FEELS PATHETIC.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
...FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO DEAL WITH IT.
IT'S NOT SO MUCH WHAT HAPPENED ...
IT'S THAT SHE'S LOST FAITH IN HERSELF...
SEE YA.
.....

YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?
IF IT'S GONNA GET YOU THAT DOWN, JUST QUIT.


I HAD A FEELING THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
IT'S NOT IN YOUR NATURE TO DO THAT KIND OF WORK.
JUST QUIT.
I KNOW I'M NOT GOOD FOR ANYTHING...
ALL I DO IS CAUSE TROUBLE FOR OTHER PEOPLE.

I'M NOT GOOD AT DEALING WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE.
I'M NOT OUTGOING, AND I'M NOT FUNNY.
I'M DEPRESSED AND PLAIN.
.....
THERE'S REALLY NOTHING GOOD ABOUT ME...
HEY...
NO ONE'S SAYING YOU'RE GOOD FOR NOTHING.
I KNOW MYSELF WELL ENOUGH.
コン
OH, GOD.
I CAN'T STAND IT.
I CAN'T EVEN STAND MYSELF FOR THINKING THIS WAY...


WHY ARE YOU THINKING LIKE THAT?
YOU HAVE YOUR GOOD POINTS, DON'T YOU?!
LIKE, WHAT KIND OF GOOD POINTS?
YOU COOK FOR ME EVERY DAY, AND DO ALL MY LAUNDRY AND CLEANING...
SO, I'M A HOUSEKEEPER?
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
IT'S OKAY...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO CHEER ME UP.

I'M HAPPY JUST TO HAVE YOU AROUND.
I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU.
YOU'RE MY SUN.
I WOULD DIE FOR YOU.

IT'S NOT ENOUGH JUST TO SAY IT, YOU KNOW.
OH, YEAH?
IS THAT RIGHT?

IT'S OKAY...
JUST KEEP TRYING, HONEY.

GOOD MORNING.
G'MORNING, HARUMI!
KIRA ...
I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU TROUBLE YESTERDAY.

SORRY!
I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT QUIT.
LOOK AT YOU!
ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT?
IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENS AGAIN...
I'LL BE OKAY.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, REI WILL MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.

HELLO...
HEY, WHAT TIME DO YOU GUYS GET OFF WORK?
YOU WANNA HANG OUT WITH US LATER?
THE GUYS FROM YESTERDAY!
HEY.
YOUR ORDER?!
I'LL TAKE IT WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.
¥290
¥280
¥300
¥240

KIRA, GO TO THE KITCHEN.
!
JUST GO... NOW.
OH...
HEY, WAIT!
!
GO AHEAD WITH YOUR ORDER.
BITCH.
TC
WHAT
WITH
HER?

HEY?! ANOTHER MICROWAVE MEAL? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR WIFE'S HOMEMADE LUNCHES?
WHAT?! DID YOU GUYS HAVE A FIGHT?
TROUBLE IN PARADISE ALREADY?
.....
LEAVE ME ALONE...
REI, THOSE GUYS FROM YESTERDAY ARE HERE AGAIN.
HELLO?
HARUMI?

DID THEY TRY TO START SOME MORE SHIT?
NO, TODAY THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO PICK UP ON US.
BUT... ONE OF THEM IS DEFINITELY AFTER KIRA.
KIRA SAID SHE'S FINE, BUT...
THEY'RE JUST HANGING OUT HERE.
.....
ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE THERE IN A FEW MINUTES.
!

I'M SORRY, BUT COULD I LEAVE FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING?

DAMN... SKIDDING ON A BICYCLE?!
DID YOU SEE THAT?
YEAH.
REI!
I BORROWED A BIKE AND FLEW OVER HERE...
WHERE ARE THEY?
THAT WAS FAST.
I'M GONNA TAKE A PISS.

!
GENTLEMEN
LOOK BEFORE YOU OPEN THE DO-
OWWW. YOU IDIOT!

SORRY.
HEY, HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA PISS...?
TAKIN' HIS TIME...
WHAT'S HE DOING IN THERE?

WH...? WHAT HAPPENED?
WHO THE HELL GOT...?

NEVER HARASS OTHER GUYS' GIRLFRIENDS AGAIN, MAN.
WHY DON'T YOU COOL YOUR HEAD, EH?
GEFF!
GEFF!
GEFF!
HEY.
REI?!

?
WHAT?
WHAT?
OH.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I'LL TRY TO GET HOME EARLY TODAY...
MY BREAK IS GONNA END.
SHIT!
I'M GONNA GET YELLED AT AGAIN.
SHIIIIIT!

あはは
THAT'S SO LIKE HIM.
URRRGH
DRIP DRIP
THE MANAGER FREAKED WHEN HE SAW THAT.
IT WAS A RIOT.
WHEN THEY CAME OUT, ONE WAS ALL BLOODY AND THE OTHER WAS DRIPPING WET.
IT WAS A BIG TO-DO ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT TO CALL THE COPS.
THEY WERE PRETTY SCARED.
SO THEN... HOW'S KIRA?
SHE DIDN'T...?
THERE WAS NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
SHE WAS PISSED AT REI FOR BEING SO RECKLESS.
WELL, I'M SURE THEY WON'T BE BACK ANYTIME SOON.

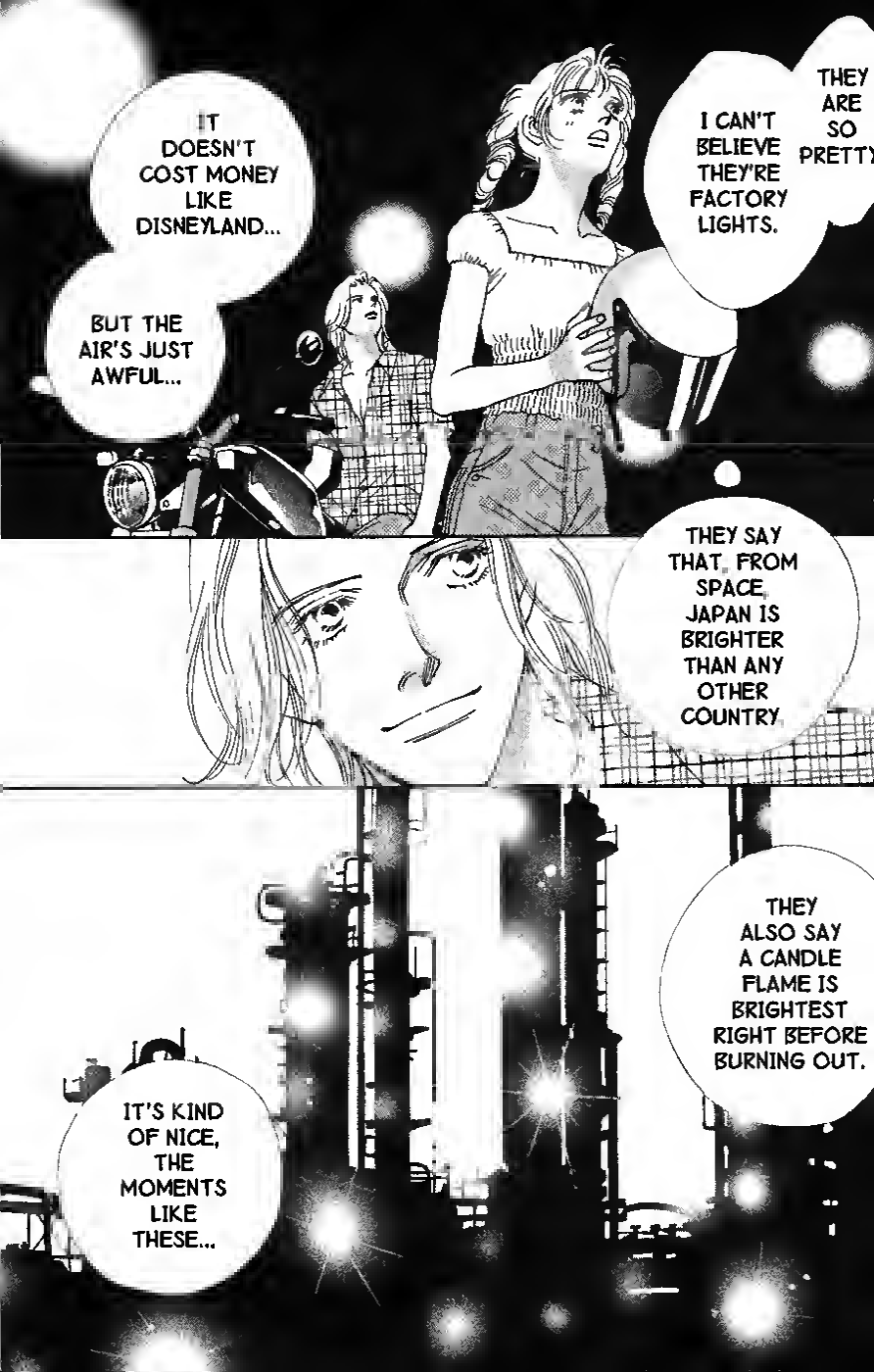
KIRA! OVER HERE.
SORRY! I HAD TO STAY LATE AT WORK.
EARLIER TODAY, REI SAID HE HAD MOVIE TICKETS, SO KIRA RAN OUT OF WORK TO GO MEET HIM.
JUST HURRY! THE MOVIE'S GONNA START.
HEY, WAIT!
HOLD THE ELEVATOR!

SIGH. I CAN'T BELIEVE WE BOTH FELL ASLEEP...
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW IT ENDED.
HEY, TAKE ME TO TOKYO DISNEYLAND...
I HEARD THE NIGHT PARADE IS REALLY PRETTY.
I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE VIDEO TO COME OUT.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE WENT OUT. WHAT A BUMMER.
YEAH, IT IS.

SHOULD WE GO TO TOKYO DISNEY-LAND?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IF WE TAKE MY BIKE WE CAN STILL MAKE IT...
HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?
THAT'S OKAY.
IT'LL BE SO CROWDED, AND IT'S A WASTE OF MONEY...
I'VE BEEN TO THE ONE IN L.A. WITH SEI.
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU WERE AT THE REAL DEAL.
HEY, YOU WANNA GO SEE A CHRISTMAS TREE?

CHRISTMAS TREE?
YUP.
IN THE SUMMER?
A CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER...

WOOOOW!!
WHAT IS THAT?
WHAT IS IT?
I TOLD YOU, IT'S
A CHRISTMAS TREE.
PRETTY COOL, HUH?
IT'S THE LIGHTS FROM A
PROCESSING PLANT.


IT DOESN'T COST MONEY LIKE DISNEYLAND...
BUT THE AIR'S JUST AWFUL...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE FACTORY LIGHTS.
THEY ARE SO PRETTY
THEY SAY THAT, FROM SPACE, JAPAN IS BRIGHTER THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY.
THEY ALSO SAY A CANDLE FLAME IS BRIGHTEST RIGHT BEFORE BURNING OUT.
IT'S KIND OF NICE, THE MOMENTS LIKE THESE...

BUT IT REALLY IS BEAUTIFUL...
THE WATER WAS CLEAR AND THERE WERE TONS OF FIREFLIES EVERYWHERE...
MY FATHER USED TO SAY THAT WHEN HE WAS GROWING UP,
HE FELT SORRY FOR THE KIDS GROWING UP TODAY...

TIME WILL JUST KEEP ON PASSING...
WE'LL GET OLD....
...AND LOOK BACK ON THE PAST.
I HOPE WE CAN ALWAYS SAY...
...HOW GREAT THINGS WERE.

WE'RE NOT HOME RIGHT NOW...
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP...
トゥルルル
トゥルルル
KIRA...
WILL YOU MARRY ME?
REI...
IT'S YOUR FATHER.

YOUR TEACHER, MR. TACHIKAWA, CALLED TO TELL ME YOU GAVE NOTICE THAT YOU'RE...
...DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL. I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR EXPLANATION.
COME HOME IMMEDIATELY.

MARS

WAIT.
I SAID WAIT, REI!
I CAN'T WAIT!
I TOLD YOU, WE'RE RACING TO THE APART-MENT!
THAT'S NOT FAIR!
THE LOSER TAKES OUT THE GARBAGE!
I'M HOME!

I WIN!
THAT'S NOT FAIR.
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD WIN AGAINST YOU!
YOU HAVE LONGER LEGS!
THANKS FOR TAKING THE GARBAGE OUT!

YOU WON'T LEAVE ME ALL ALONE?
YOU WON'T LEAVE MY SIDE?
NO, I WON'T LEAVE.
YEAH...
WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER FROM NOW ON?

きゅっ
I WON'T LET GO.
はっ
かぁぁぁ
!
OH, NO!
I HAVEN'T GONE SHOPPING FOR TOMORROW'S BREAKFAST!
YOU'RE GOING SHOPPING NOW?
YEAH, I'LL JUST RUN TO THE MINI-MART!

YOU KNOW, I'VE THOUGHT THIS BEFORE.
YOU CAN DO THAT TOMORROW MORNING.
IT'S TOO HECTIC.
BESIDES, I WANT TO SLEEP AS LONG AS I CAN.
FINE. SEE YOU LATER...
YOU JUST SAID TO NEVER LEAVE YOUR SIDE.
BUT YOU REALLY AREN'T VERY ROMANTIC.
WE JUST PROMISED TO MARRY EACH OTHER.
SO... YOU'LL GO SHOPPING TOMORROW MORNING?

SIGH. I JUST PROPOSED A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
...AND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT GARBAGE AND BREAKFAST.
ONE MESSAGE FROM AUGUST 19TH.
REI... IT'S YOUR FATHER.

"KIRA..."
"WILL YOU MARRY ME?"
"LET'S GET MARRIED WHEN I TURN 18."

I WISH TOMORROW WAS REI'S BIRTHDAY.

...DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL...
I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR EXPLANATION.
COME HOME IMMEDIATELY...
I GUESS I'M NOT SURPRISED.
I'VE GOTTA SETTLE THIS SOON...

HE PRO-POSED TO YOU?!
OH!
SSSSHHHH!
Y... YEAH. SERIOUSLY.
S... SERIOUSLY?!
REI HAS FINALLY...
I SHOULDN'T BE THE ONE IN AWE...
I KNEW YOU WOULD END UP TOGETHER...
BUT IT BRINGS TEARS TO MY EYES NOW THAT IT'S ACTUALLY HAPPENING...
あ

WHAT'S WRONG NOW?
YOU'VE ALREADY GOT THE MARRIAGE BLUES?
NO, IT'S NOT THAT...
WAS REI'S BIRTHDAY IN NOVEMBER?
YEAH, NOVEMBER 30TH.
IMAGINE REGISTERING WHILE CELEBRATING HIS BIRTHDAY.
I WAS JUST REMEMBER-ING THAT SEI DIED...
...ON NOVEMBER 29TH.
SEI, REI'S TWIN...

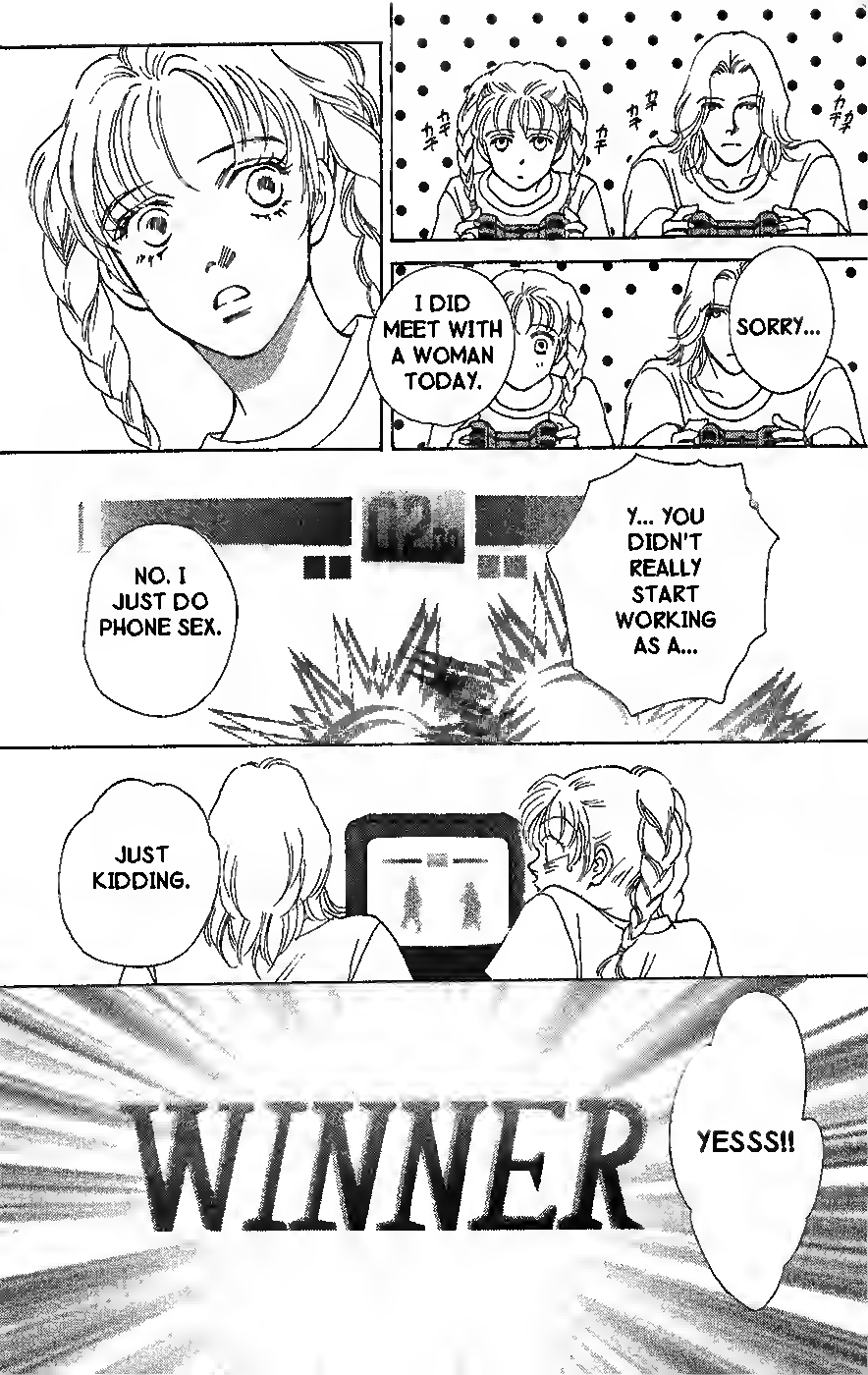
OH....
SO SEI KILLED HIMSELF THE DAY BEFORE HIS BIRTHDAY?
THAT'S PRETTY TOUGH...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD FOR REI.

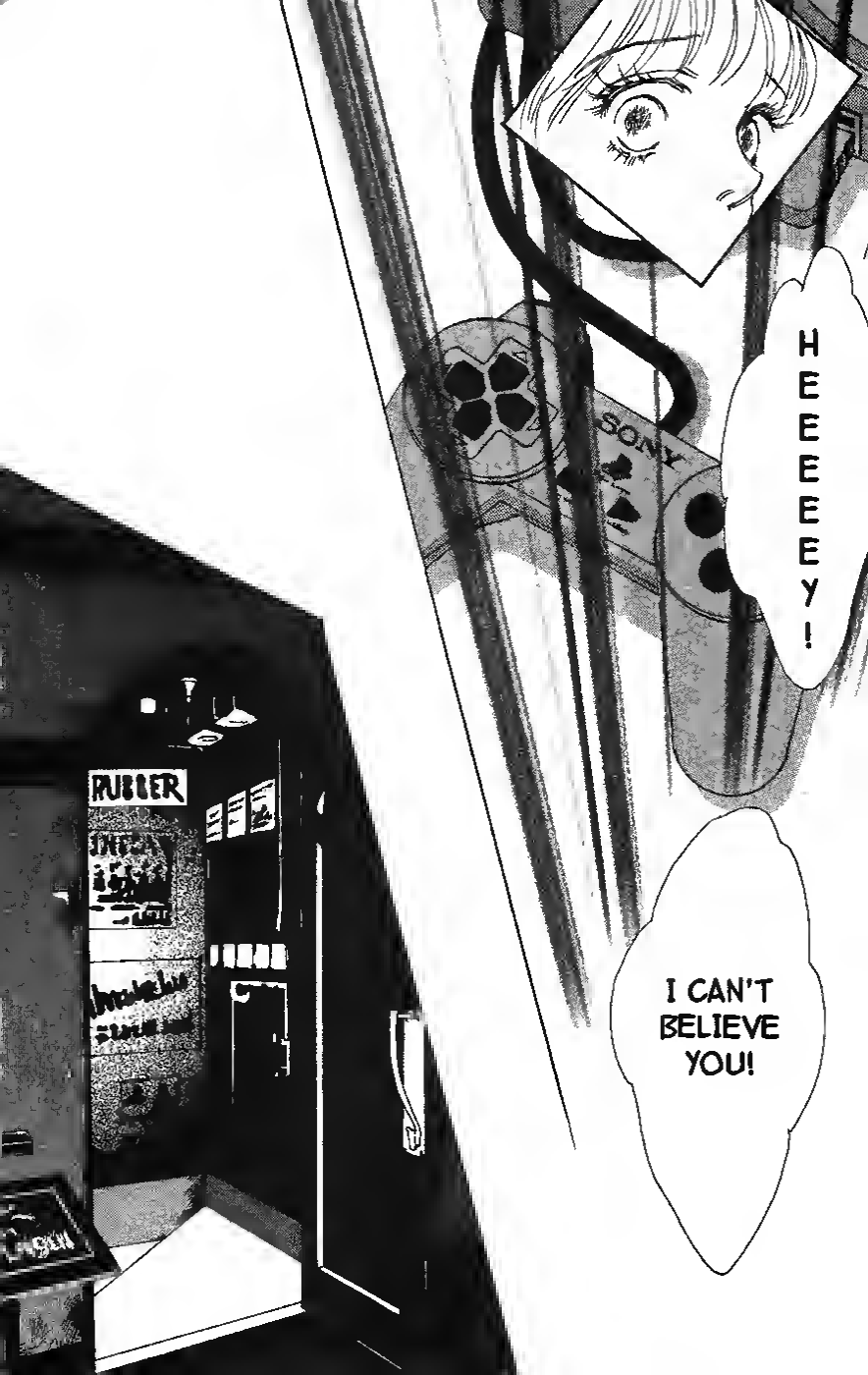
REI...
REI...?!
!

aiwa

I HATE YOU!
OW...
KEEP THE FIGHTING ON SCREEN, DAMMIT.
NOOOO!
I LOST AGAIN!
WINNER
ALL RIGHT!
ONE MORE TIME!!
WHAT? AGAIN?
I'M GOING TO USE A DIFFERENT CHARACTER THIS TIME.
SONY
I CAN'T BELIEVE TATSUYA LENT US HIS PLAYSTATION.
HE'S BUSY WITH HIS DREAMCAST RIGHT NOW.
WHAT?! HE GOT A DREAMCAST?!

SHINJUKU?
NO...
WHY?
WERE YOU IN SHINJUKU TODAY?
NO.
SO IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE?
I SAW SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE YOU THERE...
...AND HE WAS ARGUING WITH AN OLDER WOMAN...
IT REALLY WASN'T YOU?
I THOUGHT NO WAY, BUT THEN...
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU STARTED A JOB AS AN ESCORT OR SOMETHING...


I DID MEET WITH A WOMAN TODAY.
SORRY...
NO. I JUST DO PHONE SEX.
Y... YOU DIDN'T REALLY START WORKING AS A...
JUST KIDDING.
WINNER
YESSS!!


HEEEEEEY!
SONY
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!

HEY!
76
UNION

THEY JUST CALLED TO SAY THEY FINISHED WORK.
THEY'RE HEADING OVER NOW.
WHERE ARE KIRA AND HARUMI?
YOU'RE EARLY, TATSUYA
76 UNION
REI, IT'S BEEN SO LONG.
OH MY GOD!
I DON'T DO THAT ANYMORE, SWEETHEART.
WHAT?! REALLY?!
REALLY.
HEY, HOW'S IT GOIN'?
SO, ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT QUITTING SCHOOL?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HERE IN A WHILE.
YOU WANNA DO IT?

I GAVE MY NOTICE TODAY...
THEY ACCEPTED IT.
SO IT'S SET?
IT'S SET.
YOU REALLY DID IT...
BELL'S
I ONLY GOT INTO THAT SCHOOL BECAUSE OF MY FATHER, SO THERE'S NO POINT IN IT NOW.
SIGH

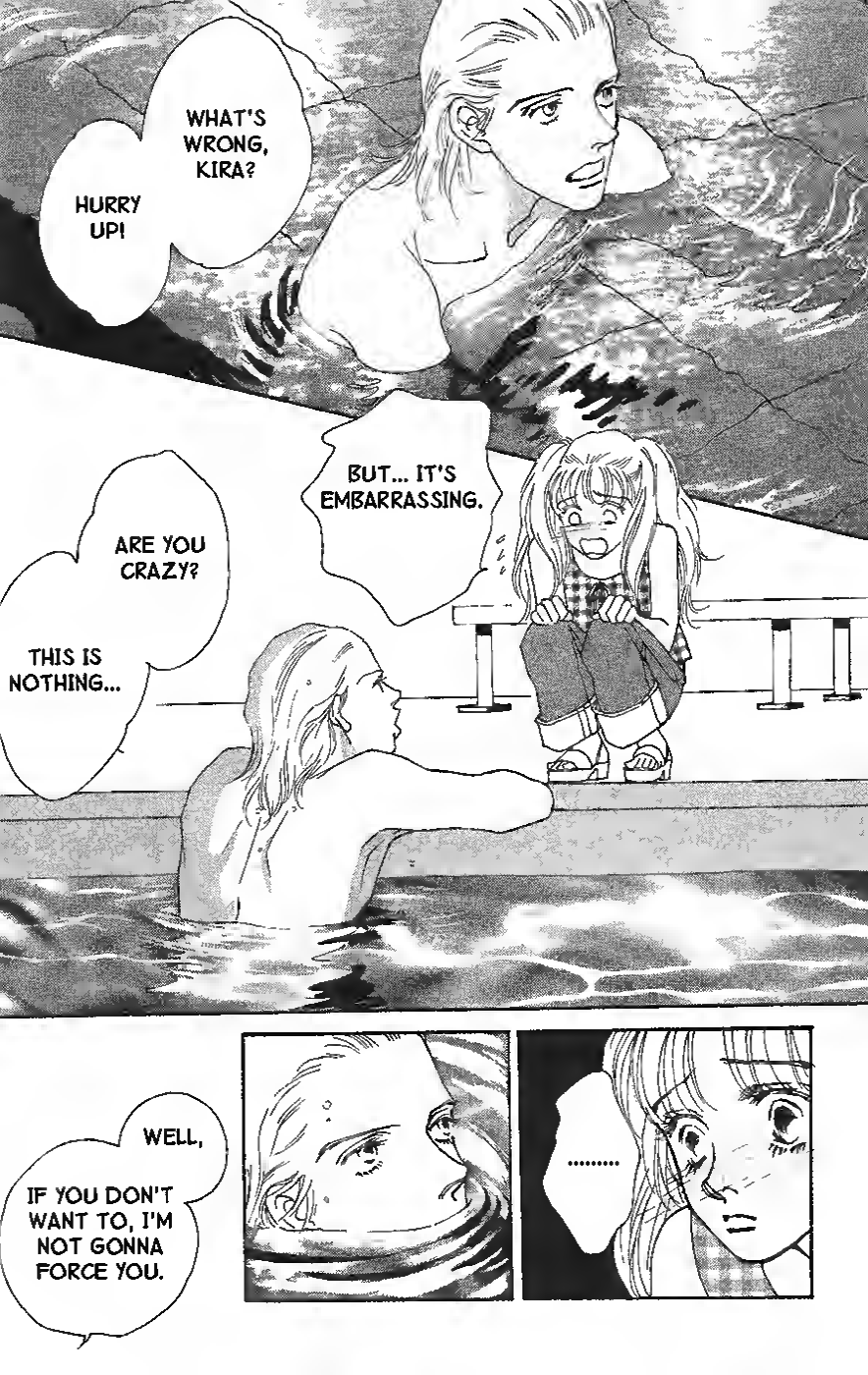
AFTER HE WENT OFF LAST TIME, HE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING.
HE'S PROBABLY DISOWNED ME.
YOUR FATHER CONSENTED?
THIS MEANS WE CAN REALLY BE STRANGERS NOW...
BUT IT'S FINE WITH ME.
TATSUYA!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE...

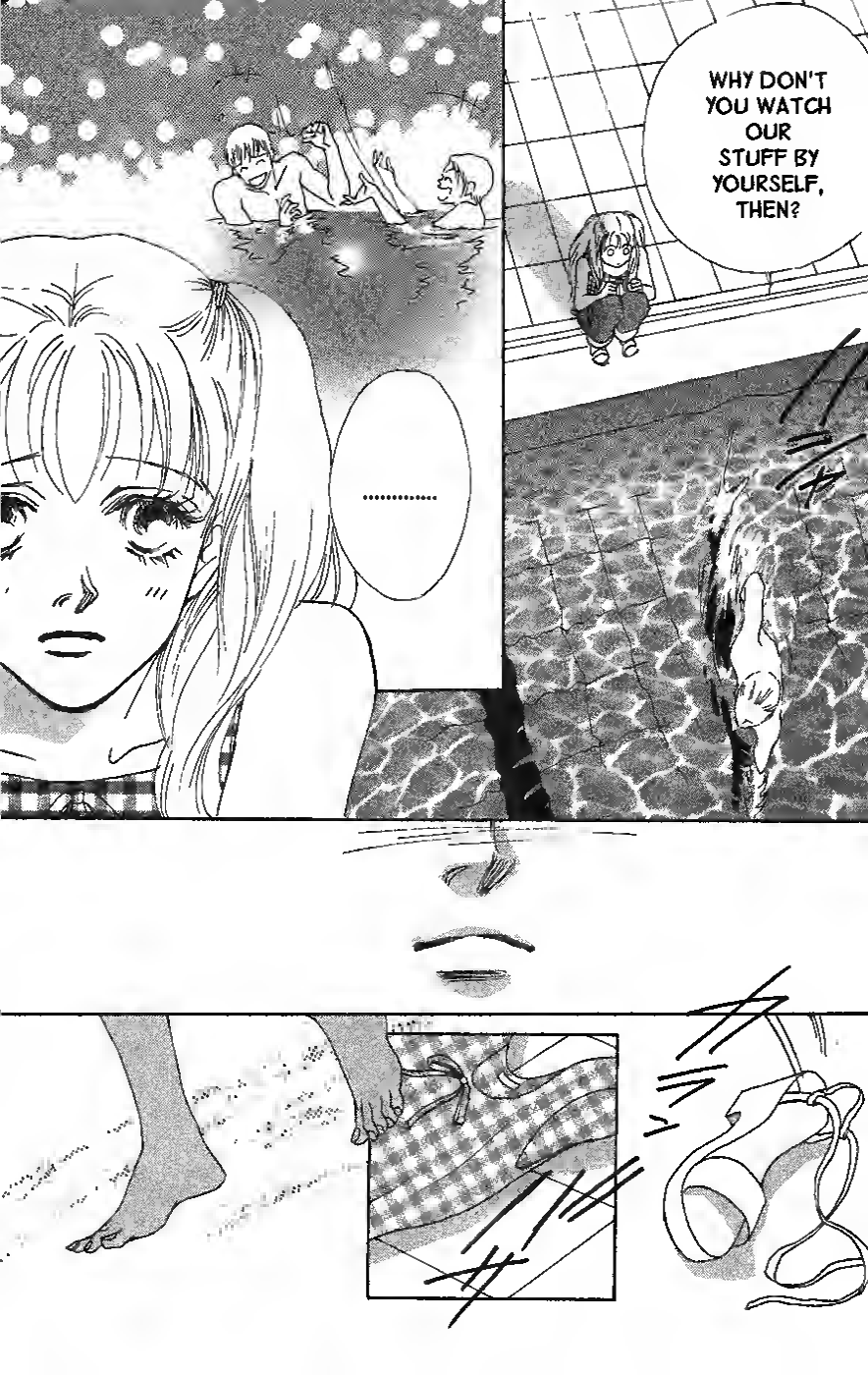
THIS IS OUR LAST SUMMER OF HIGH SCHOOL...
IT'S NO FUN JUST HANGING OUT.
WE THOUGHT WE COULD AT LEAST SET OFF SOME FIREWORKS TOGETHER...
RIGHT!
YOU'RE LATE. WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
SORRY. WE WERE LOOKING FOR FIREWORKS ON THE WAY HERE.
FIRE-WORKS?
YOU KNOW, I HAVEN'T GONE SWIMMING EVEN ONCE THIS SUMMER.
ME NEITHER.
LET'S ALL GO TO THE BEACH RIGHT NOW!
HEY, ME NEITHER!

LET'S HIT THE BEACH TO SWIM AND DO FIREWORKS!
NO, NOT THE BEACH. THERE ARE TONS OF JELLYFISH RIGHT NOW.
THEN... THE POOL?
THEY'RE NOT OPEN AT THIS HOUR.
HOTEL POOLS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE.
ISN'T THERE SOMEWHERE WE CAN SWIM FOR CHEAP?
THERE'S NO SUCH THING.
IT'LL BE ALL OURS, AND IT'S FREE...
YES, THERE IS.

REI...
THIS IS THE SCHOOL'S POOL. CAN WE COME IN HERE LIKE THIS?
OF COURSE WE CAN'T.
WE'LL JUST APOLOGIZE IF WE GET CAUGHT...
OH... WHAT ABOUT SWIMSUITS?
NAKED'S FINE.

OH MY GOD! IT'S SO EXCITING!
I FEEL LIKE WE'RE ALL TAKING A BATH.
THIS FEELS PRETTY GOOD, YOU KNOW.
WH...?!!
WHAT?!
HURRY UP, KIRA!
H... HARUMI!
.....


WHAT'S WRONG, KIRA?
HURRY UP!
BUT... IT'S EMBARRASSING.
ARE YOU CRAZY?
THIS IS NOTHING...
WELL,
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, I'M NOT GONNA FORCE YOU.
.....


WHY DON'T YOU WATCH OUR STUFF BY YOURSELF, THEN?
.....

!
KIRA!
OH MY GOD! MY FEET DON'T TOUCH HERE!
THAT'S THE SAME AS NOT BEING ABLE TO SWIM.
...ABOUT FIVE METERS...
I CAN SO SWIM...
COUGH!
IT GOT IN MY NOSE!
WHAT? YOU CAN'T SWIM?!

AAAAHH!
WHOA!
!
TATSUYA, YOU BASTARD!
BURBLE
BURBLE

KIRA?!
I THINK I'M FLOATING...
IS THIS WHAT SWIMMING IS?

SUMMER VACATION'S OVER NOW.
IT WENT BY SO FAST!
NEXT YEAR, WE ALL GRADUATE...
I WONDER WHAT WE'LL ALL BE DOING THEN?

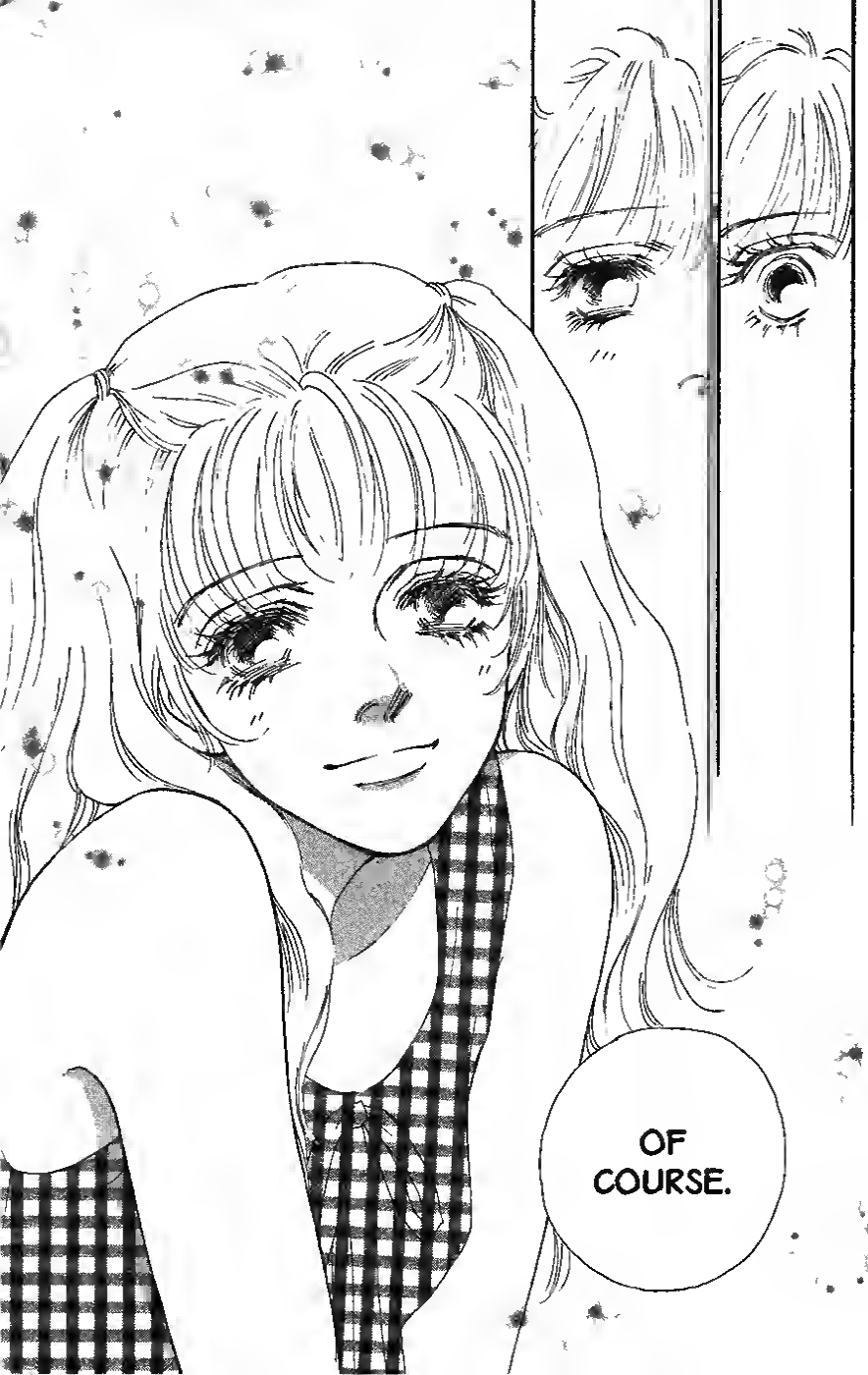
I'LL BE A COLLEGE STUDENT IF I GET IN.
I'LL BE GOING TO A BEAUTY SCHOOL.
YOU'LL BE A RACER, RIGHT, REI?
YOU'LL BE A BRIDE.
HE EVEN QUIT SCHOOL SO HE COULD GO FOR IT.
WHAT?!

WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU QUIT?
WHAT?
YOU DIDN'T TELL HER THAT YOU GAVE YOUR NOTICE?

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME...
...THAT YOU QUIT SCHOOL?
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS HIDING IT FROM YOU...
I WANTED TO WAIT TO TALK TO YOU UNTIL AFTER FIGURING OUT THE FUTURE.
* WORKS-A BIKE MANUFACTURER'S OWN RACING TEAM
I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO LET ME BE A WORKS* TEST-RIDER.
EVEN AS A TEST RIDER, THEY'RE WORKS MACHINES.
I'LL GET TO RIDE ALL THE NEW BIKES...

UNTIL NOW, ALL I WAS DOING WAS RIDING.
I JUST HAD FUN RIDING FAST, LIKE IT WAS A GAME.
I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT RESULTS...
...AS LONG AS I RODE FASTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE.
IF...
...THERE IS THAT CHANCE...
BUT NOW I WANT TO GO PRO.
I WANT TO MAKE A LIVING AS A RACER.

I WANT TO BE A PRO RACER.
YOU CAN STAY WITH ME, CAN'T YOU?
NOT JUST A FAST RACER...
A GREAT RACER.
YOU WILL STAY WITH ME, RIGHT?


OF COURSE.

WHEREVER
YOU ARE
IS WHERE
I'LL BE.

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